

THE CULTIVATION OF THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT IN THE SABBATH SCHOOL, AND HOW.

Rev. EBER CRUMMY.—Mr. President, and Fellow-Teachers,—I am glad to see at least a little space given on the Convention programme to the consideration of the missionary interest. The reason why, and the only reason why, I shall say that it is necessary to cultivate the missionary spirit in the Sunday School, is the present condition of mission work, and its possible solution. Great things have been done this past century. We have become so accustomed to great things that we scarcely note them when they do transpire. Within the last three years, and culminating much this year, some of the greatest events of history have taken place. I mention one or two just by way of illustration. You know the Cuban war was a thing which politicians played their political tricks over, but it and its issue resulted in one of the greatest events of this or other centuries, the friendly approachment of two great Anglo-Saxon peoples. We cannot be blind to the fact that the little jealousies which divided these two great peoples in the past have been a source of weakness, and their removal has prepared these two splendid nations, with a somewhat developed Christian conscience, for activities in the future, which must surpass anything we have seen in Christian history.

We will just mention a second similar event—the shutting up of a flood-gate of death, which was caused by the Soudan slave trade, through the success of the British in Egypt. Notwithstanding all the little political questions, the shutting up of that gate is one of the grandest triumphs of history for humanity.

I want to cite a little bit of experience, simply because it falls in with one of the chapters of missionary progress. I remember the day, so do you, praying the Lord to send forth or to produce workers for the field. The Lord has done it a good while ago. I think it was in my Sophomore year at old Victoria that Dr. Burns, now gone to his reward, was giving a missionary address to the students. Some nineteen, I think, of the young men graduating that year, intending to go into various professions, came forth, after prayer and much thought, in response to the appeal he made, and signed their names to a declaration that they were willing to be sent by the Methodist Church—they were all Methodists—into the Foreign Field, and I think, as far as I know, for the first time in the history of that Church its mouth was closed on that prayer, and the challenge was placed before us, which has never been removed. In 1887 there came letters from Japan asking that men should go. I responded, and when I reached Vancouver I met a fellow-traveller likewise going to Japan. Dr. Whitney had written to Mr. Moody, who had brought the matter before the Y.M.C.A. officers of the United States, and already there was one young man sent forth at least with the blessing, if not with the money, of that institution. That gave rise, I believe, next