

contributed most to make man. The sanctuary is like an arsenal of weapons—for offensive and defensive war. In it are found the men and women fitted to lead in every good reform; the talent necessary for the most useful serving; the aspirations which fit for high achievement; the faith that can essay great ventures; the love and compassion that must precede all genuine charities; the sympathy that makes the needs of some the concern of all. And, therefore, out of the sanctuary have come the missionaries and evangelists who have given widest publication to the truths heard within it. By means of it has been enkindled those enthusiasms which have aroused men to follow the Master in going about doing good. In fact, from no other place issues so much that is beneficent to society as from the Christian sanctuary. No other institution has the direction of so much consecrated energy, nor shapes the activities of so many willing hands and ardent souls. As a propagandist of truth and an agent of charity the church stands without a rival among the institutions of mankind, while the body of believers composing the church get, after all, their place among the operative forces of society through the sanctuary. In the house of God are gathered to be taught and directed those whose consecrated efforts affect so generally the well-being of districts and neighbourhoods. In new communities it is the attraction of cohesion that the sanctuary supplies; it becomes the rallying place of the best lived, and by means of it are confederated the men and women who must lead in every good work.

Take the sanctuaries of London or New York, and what sources of power they have become because of the numbers that therein are plied with every inspiration for the most devoted service. The most generous giving is witnessed in them: the most vital reforms are there commended to the support of earnest hearts; the workers are there who wait only instruction and a spiritual Christ for oft-times careers of far-reaching usefulness; the influences are there which were designed to persuade to a Christian life those who have been living without God and without hope in the world. In fact, the forces which under providence can regenerate the life of any city or village, are every Lord's day to be found in its Christian sanctuaries.

IV.—Remember further that the Christian sanctuary is of the foremost importance to a new community. It is the institution of all others, whose upbuilding can suffer the least delay. As a matter of fact it is apt in this country to be preceded by the advent of the saloon and brothel, and a young community has to meet the exposures incident to the unchecked forces of evil and barbarism for a while, until the school house and Christian church and Sabbath school can be organised, and the better elements among the population combined, and through these institutions be made effective. The philosophy of all our home, missionary and church building societies is based on the conceded fact, that young towns small in population and without the homogeneity which comes with growth and the reciprocities of business, cannot be left to themselves, they must be promptly and generously aided to procure at the earliest moment the loving preacher and the sanctuary. It is now admitted to be the dictate of Chris-

tian enterprise and economy to follow the advance wave of immigration, and pre-empt the ground for Christian institutions. Every church edifice is a centre of evangelizing influences. Wherever built it floats the ensign of Calvary; to those who frequent it it proffers the franchises of citizenship in the kingdom of Christ. It mortgages the town or hamlet wherein located to Christ. It subsidizes the intelligence and enterprise of the people in the name of the Lord Jesus. It menaces all forms of public and private evil. Its language to the community amid which planted is, "The Gospel has come to stay here and to command your reverence, and enlist your active support in all its beneficent schemes." You who are here assembled on this occasion and in this finished sanctuary, know the joy which comes from its possession. The longings of years are this hour fulfilled; the sacrifices and self-denials cheerfully made to acquire this attractive church-home are fully repaid, as you sit here, glad occupants of a building which embodies all these to you costly experiences. With what sincere joy you can repeat the Psalmist's words, "How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts." I bring you, brethren, the salutations of the Minnesota churches, and congratulate you most cordially on your achievements here as builders together of this house of the Lord, and as workers in His vineyard. I have come a long way, and in the face of the severest cold, to voice formally and personally the fellowship of my Christian brethren in the States. But I have come on a blessed and important errand, else I would not have accepted your invitation to be here. We Congregationalists of the British Dominions and the United States have a common inheritance and a great religious destiny, and we need to be drawn closer together, and exalt and enjoy those dues of Christian brotherhood which are the holy bonds uniting us together. The fight against sin, and every form of unbelief, is the same both sides of the line. The triumphs of the churches of our order here or in the States are a common glory. We believe that it has fallen to us to contribute not a little towards solving the problem of evangelizing this continent, and the world. The empire growing up here will need the best help and direction the free churches of our faith can proffer, and we mean to have these stand on the lines of progress. The greatest future will be with the Church which in its worship and fellowship provides most fully for man's religious nature, and if we be faithful to pure spiritual aims and methods, we shall be equal to our obligation and opportunity.

And now may I add a word of exhortation, which, amid the joy and triumph of this hour, I would fain have you treasure up, and in coming days let it be exemplified in your church and Christian life. Make this sanctuary a magazine of kindness and loving help amid this community. Let the services here be ever inspiring and instructive, attesting, in their winsome character, that orthodoxy of head will never be put above the heart's broader and more genial creed. Let it be from the start the shrine of no sectarists, but the meeting place in which shall be welcomed all believers in the Fatherhood of God and the saving grace of His Infinite Son; all lovers of and seekers after truth; all friends of every good reform; all, in a