

no halting allowed on this journey, and no retreat in this war.

These are the dark features in the problem, but they are about the only discouraging aspects of the whole question. It is safe to assert that there never was a time when the solution of this problem was so simple as at present. It is at last true that the world is open to the missionary of the cross.

We think that the opening of the sealed doors of Thibet made the way clear for Christian missions to the end of the world. We are not here interested in the question of the motive which actuated the British contingent to brave the fierce people of that forlorn and inhospitable region, but whatever was the thought, the fact is that the Union Jack floated over the city of Lhasa and the doors are opened for ever. This means much, for to the true Christian instinct it appears that there is a mighty invincible Spirit who is leading the willing hosts of God to a glorious triumph. Then it must be remembered that it never was so easy to reach the most remote parts of the world as it is to-day.

The commercial world has been laid under tribute and every mountain and hill is being brought low, and the valleys are being levelled up, and the crooked places made straight, so that commerce may swiftly pass along these royal highways. But shall these material things not be made to contribute to the spread of the kingdom of God? Shall not these ocean liners, which have conquered the wildest storms, on the widest seas, be ours for the work of reaching the "rising of the sun," to blow the trumpet of truth, and to follow the "going down thereof," that we may push the horizon of Christian civilization farther toward the end of the world?

Another providence which we must needs remember is the fact that we have the Bible now in over 370 languages, and that we are still ready to turn out for the missionary new translations to meet his needs when he reaches other peoples whose tongues have not yet been given the Scriptures.

Is it not true that, while the missionaries of the past were the true heroes of God, they were seriously handicapped by the fact that the church did not know how to give to them the best equipment? The work has been slow and tedious, but it is not true, as some who are of a doubtful mind, would have us believe, that the speed must remain as it has been. In-

deed, the statistics of missions show that the movement becomes accelerated by the square of the distance from the point of commencement. But the fact is that those who now go to the work of missions are thoroughly prepared so that they can do the work in a way which will most easily secure the confidence of the heathen people. The work of the medical missionary is a golden key to open many doors ever closed to the evangelist. Then the work by women, and for women, makes for the solution of one of the most difficult problems the church has had to face.

These, and many other favorable conditions are well calculated to encourage the church to move forward like a mighty and invincible army.

But is it not true that we have been somewhat unwise in the methods we have adopted at home? Many of those present can remember the time when the missionary work of the church was presented exclusively to the fathers and mothers. The missionary sermon and lecture and also the missionary literature were all for the older people.

It was a vast advance when the work among the young people was organized. The Epworth League Forward Movement was so radical that not a few of our best people hesitated to give it their sanction. Indeed, there are those now who are not in very hearty accord with the work which is being done. But the rolling up of even a few thousands of dollars and the mental hunger for missionary information puts the question past the experimental stage and for ever out of the realm of controversy.

The Student Volunteer movement was in advance of all the past in college work, and gave to the question the academic tone which put it where it should always have been.

The missionary was not always revered by those of higher educational attainments, but that phase is of the past, and the most superlative culture is none too good to-day for the most remote mission field of any church.

But may we presume to say that all this is but going the wrong way about doing a right thing?

Should not the most important and difficult task of human history have been taken at a better vantage-point than it has been?

The work of missions is a double-sided cause. It is "twice blessed, it blesseth him that giveth and him that receiveth."

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