

Secondly, Fields already open but wholly unoccupied, whose vastness is overwhelming and demands careful division of labor, might by such committee be apportioned to various Christian denominations.

And thirdly, Fields not yet fully opened but about to become accessible, could be watched and preparations made for their speedy occupation when the full time has come; as for instance Korea, Thibet, etc.

We have already in these pages adverted to this subject, and, after much thought, feel constrained to press even now the appointment by the various evangelical denominations of some sort of Advisory Board who, by correspondence and as far as may be by personal conference, may act for the whole church of Christ. Such men as the Earl of Aberdeen, Sir John Kennaway, Dr. Wardlaw Thompson, Eugene Stock, Esq., Rev. A. C. Thompson, D.D., Rev. F. F. Ellinwood, D.D., Rev. Hudson Taylor, Rev. A. J. Gordon, D.D., Rev. W. M. Taylor, D.D., Bishop W. X. Ninde, D.D., James Mathieson, Esq., Rev. J. Murray Mitchell, LL.D., Rev. W. S. Swanson, Principal McVicar, Rev. Phillips Brooks, Bishop Potter, Bishop Huntington—who would hesitate to follow the counsel of such men in matters pertaining to the great world-wide field of missions!

VII. There were mistakes of a minor character which pertain to all things human. This *limiting of speakers* to "five minutes" is one of the absurdities of modern impatience and "fastness." A man who, like Dr. Cairns, carries big brains under his hat and a big heart in his breast, takes proportionately long to get "under weigh." It was more than offensive to hear some really great and wise man rung down by the inexorable bell, when he had just laid the basis of his remarks and was just prepared to give us the results of wise and deliberate thinking; while some smart but shallow speaker, who mistook "audibility and volubility" for logic and eloquence, rattled through five minutes and "finished" without saying anything. It was painful to see that the modesty of some men of merit kept them back because their very aversion to the bell and the five-minute rule increased their embarrassment while the assurance of others emboldened them to "occupy the time" without any real suggestions to offer. It was very strange to us to hear *such* an audience actually arrest with mock applause certain men of whom they tired or who overran their proper limits; or to observe evidences of manifest favoritism on the part not only of auditors but of presiding officers and committee men.

But these were the spots on the sun—the insignificant blemishes on a fair face that was on the whole beautiful and even radiant. He would be very critical and run his criticism into captiousness who would turn a telescopic or microscopic eye upon such defects. Here was a grand gathering of missionaries and missionary workers and supporters brought face to face and eye to eye from the earth's ends.