

Oliver Wendell Holmes was once asked, "When should the training of a child begin?" His answer was, "a hundred years before it is born." There is profound wisdom in the remark. We are the product of the times past. Why has the North American wilderness outstripped the wealthy lands of Mexico and Peru? Roman Catholic Spain possessed the one, Protestant Anglo-Saxondom has prevailed in the other. What makes the difference between Massachusetts and Virginia? between Maine and the Carolinas? The pilgrim and the puritan founded the one; the aristocrat and cavalier the other. Let these facts be pondered.

Have we Congregationalists any mission in the formation of those Canadian homes whose foundations are now being laid? Did the Mayflower do anything for America? Is the England of to-day indebted in any degree to Oliver Cromwell and John Milton? And who are the men this very hour that are specially caring for "Outcast London?" The descendants of those sturdy Independents. Life is really too short, and too intensely earnest, to be discussing the colour of ecclesiastical petticoats, or whether organs are lawful and hymns divine. There is no time to be tinkering at creeds venerable and wearing out. We have a land to possess; let us go up at once and possess it! We are able if God is with us; and if God is not, we may be clubs, but we are not churches, and had better disband. Truly as our friends across the border, we can say with patriotic pride:—

"I hear the tread of pioneers, of nations yet to be;
The first low wash of waves where soon shall roll a
mighty sea!
The rudiments of Empire here are plastic yet and
warm,
The chaos of a mighty world is rounding into form."

If truly Christian we have, as Mr. Strong urges, but one business—many occupations—one business; *to witness for Christ*. "One thing I do." God does not muzzle the ox that treads out the corn, nor does he demand from you a hermit life. He giveth richly all things to enjoy, therefore be not slothful in business, but remember there are things the Lord hath need of, and while supplying manna in the wilderness—you the gatherers—replenishing too the garments as they wear. He also says—Go up and possess the land. Let His responsibilities rest upon us.

Think how the world spends money. A man gets \$10,000 in a brutal prize fight for bruising his fellow more than he gets bruised himself. An opera singer can get a thousand dollars for one night and still bring gain to her engagers. Christ's cause can starve, and almost every house where he is professedly worshipped carry a debt. When shall we go up and possess the land? When our benevolence keeps pace with our

enjoyments; when men realize the pressure of heaven's kingdom upon them; when, holding principles, we have faith in them, and give that faith a practical manifestation.

God pity our meanness, pardon our coldness; cause us to realize what great things He hath done for us—under Him may we leave Egypt's bondage, sin's wilderness, and boldly enter into possession of the promised land. Friends, send for this book. It will instruct and stimulate, as few books can.

Correspondence.

OUR MISSIONARIES AT LISBON.

MR. EDITOR:—Few cities stand on a more beautiful site than Lisbon. It is situated on the banks of the Tagus, where the river spreads itself into a lake, and is built on a number of hills. The city enjoys the reputation of being very old. Some say it was founded by the great-grand-son of Abraham, B. C. 3,259, but how far this is true the reader is left to enquire.—It was converted to Christianity we are told by S. Pedro de Rates, a convert of Santiago, and first Bishop of Brazil. In the reign of Don Joan 1st it became the capitol of Portugal, and after that period it increased in wealth and political importance until its power was felt in the world, much more than it is now, or is ever likely to be again. We arrived at this place April 28th, and as there are still no docks there at which vessels can discharge their cargo, we stopped some distance from land and had to go ashore in a small boat rowed by two sturdy natives. As we drew near the shore, we noticed a number of girls and women with bare feet and limbs, and their skirts gathered up, standing in the water knee deep, washing clothes and using large rocks as wash boards. This we were informed was the place and manner in which the washerwomen of the city did their work. It saves the expense of wash tubs, water, &c. Our attendant pointed to a section of the city where the land was low and the buildings rather old, dirty looking, and said that it was old Portugal, and further on he pointed to another section which bears the name of new.—On inquiring I find that the former best stood the shock of the earthquake of 1755, while the latter was destroyed and has since been rebuilt. It seems that previous to the date just mentioned the city had experienced several earthquakes, but as not much damage was done, the people took little notice of them.—On the first of November of that year however, three shocks occurred, each one more violent than the first, and after the third the greater part of the city was laid