

THE REFLECTOR.

MOTTO FOR '97, "Always abounding in the work of the Lord."—Paul.

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The World Wide Work and the Workmen.

A sermon by the pastor.

Neh. 4 : 10 'The work is great and large and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.'

The work of building the desolated walls of Jerusalem was great in importance and large in dimensions. The number of the builders was small and their enemies great. Their efforts were treated with scorn. "What to these feeble Jews?" they inquired in derision; and they were in constant dread of being overwhelmed. But they had a wise leader who adopted an admirable plan. Half of the people worked on the wall and the other half held the spears and shields and bows. Nehemiah believed that thus equipped, God would give them the victory. But he did not believe in victory without fighting for it, and so he commanded "At whatsoever place ye hear the sound of the trumpet resort ye hither unto us and our God will fight for us."

This text is chosen to illustrate the kind of work the people of God have to do in these days. There are many respects in which Christianity may be compared to the dilapidated walls of Jerusalem. Some of the places where it first flourished have crumbled into ruins. The cross once triumphed in Armenia, but to-day the crescent

waves its bloody folds, so that during the past year a christian population equal to all the cities of the Maritime Provinces, has been massacred by the cruel Turk. But our purpose is to let the text illustrate the great work of building a wall of love around the entire world, and our relation to that work. Our text, therefore, contains two leading thoughts, (1), The Greatness of the Work, (2), The Position of the Workmen.

I. The Greatness of the Work. "The work is great and large."

1. *It is great in purpose.* Though the earthly ministry of Jesus was confined to the narrow limits of Palestine, he announced himself as the Saviour of the world. He described himself as the Bread which alone could satisfy the world's hunger, and the Water which alone could meet the world's thirst, and as being in his own person the Light of the world. And in the spirit of these three great words he sent his apostles to prosecute this stupendous claim, to preach the gospel to every creature without respect to creed, nation, or climate, as just one field belonging to one owner. The Parliament of Religions held in Chicago three years ago, proved just one thing, besides its own failure, and that is, that not one of the other religions of the world can ever be the universal religion of the whole race. It brought out very clearly that, with the exception of Christianity, there is no religion