

at Jerusalem. But it was resisted by the pastors and elders of the wealthy churches, and by the American Home Missionary Society. And what has been the result? The Presbyterian Church there, as we have shown, is but a trifle stronger to-day than it was then; while, relatively to population, it is tenfold weaker. Until quite recently our Home Missionary Boards and Societies refused to aid churches located in any *city*, and presbyteries and associations and large city churches were required to pay over all their funds to these national agencies, and let their own local feeble churches go! It just begins to dawn on the minds of some of the brethren that this is a most unnatural and losing policy.

And what is true of Brooklyn and New York, is largely true of all our great cities. The Protestant Church located in them is growing relatively weaker in numbers, strength and effectiveness, year by year, while sin and wickedness and ungodliness in every form are waxing stronger and more aggressive and dominant.

What will be the outcome of all this? But one answer can be given, unless the church shall quickly arise in the might of her power, and concentrate for the next few years her attention and means and prayers and evangelizing agencies upon our large and wicked cities, till the plague is stayed, and they are made centers of a powerful spiritual life and power. This, as a Christian duty of the hour, is imperative. The crisis is upon us and can be met in no other way. No other policy will save us as a people! What if the country population and the heathen world, for the time being, receive less attention and aid from us? *Save, Christianize, our cities*, and in the end the whole world will be infinitely the gainer. One strong church in the city is a greater force than twenty in a sparse population! The larger part of the wealth and talent and enterprise and liberality and aggressive power of the church is in the city. The church is a *unit*. The church is the incarnate Christ seeking the salvation of the world. *Work where the greatest results can be had!* The field is *one*—no home, no foreign, no East or West or North or South. John Angell James, of England, never made a truer or more pregnant remark than when he said, in urging that the first duty of the American Church was to evangelize our own land: “America for Christ for the sake of the world.” And we say, *convert our cities to Christ for the sake of America and the world.*

THE EXPOSITION OF MISSIONS.

[EDITORIAL.—A. T. P.]

THESE are days of great “expositions.” This term, imported from the French, does not convey to us the exact meaning it does to a Parisian—an exhibit of those products of human invention and industry which are the exponents of the progress of the age.