

in *The Church* read the Acts of the Apostles? We had always understood that the inclination of the church of apostolic days was to stay too long and too lovingly at Jerusalem. Our Lord's last command was, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, *until* ye be endued with power from on high." Manifestly, after the enduement they were to scatter and carry everywhere the good tidings and the tongues of fire. But conservatism, Jewish prejudices, national exclusiveness, disposed them to stay there too long; and so God, by persecution, drove them out; and even then the "apostles" remained behind. Compare Acts viii: 1-4 and xi: 19-21. Peter certainly had no inclination to go to the Gentiles, and God had to give him a vision on the housetop, thrice repeated, and a special call to Cornelius, before he learned the lesson that the church was *not* to tarry at Jerusalem. Nay, God had to raise up a special apostle to the Gentiles, and then specially call him and Barnabas to the work, before any of the leaders of the early church attempted a foreign mission! Acts xiii: 2.

In view of such facts and inspired statements as these, we cannot avoid the conclusion that to question the course of the early church in this matter, as the writer above quoted does, is to question the wisdom of God's providence and Spirit. Such arguments can do home missions no good. The fact is, the work is world-wide; and there is no distinction between the fields, save that of comparative degradation, destitution, remoteness from gospel influence, and desperate wretchedness. The home fields are loud enough in their calls; but even these are not as utterly in darkness and the shadows of death as the regions beyond, where Christ has never yet been named. How can we place the remote parts of Iowa, Wisconsin, Kansas and Dakota, side by side with the heart of China, where a few years ago missionaries traveled 1,000 miles from east to west and found not one missionary station, and but *two* within 500 miles to the north or south; or the heart of Africa, where Stanley journeyed 7,000 miles and saw not one man who had ever heard of Christ! In view of such awful destitution, how can any man calmly say that "these United States need the gospel *as no other portion of the inhabitable globe needs it to-day?*"

Let us send the herald of the cross everywhere. But let us not deny that, much as the home fields need the evangel, these midnight tracts of humanity are in destitution even more awful. Dr. H. H. Jessup, of Syria, one of our editorial correspondents, writes, referring to this article which we are reviewing:

"That article 'Begin at Jerusalem' in the November, 1887, number of *The Church*, is a little out of date. It would have been well in the years 34-40 A. D., but the writer is about 1847 years behind time. That 'beginning at Jerusalem' was done and finished so long ago that it is like going backwards on the record of Christianity to talk of it now. The church at home is bound to build, each man 'over against his house,' but we can never escape the thunders of that 'last command' to 'go and preach in the whole world to every creature.'"