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# THE ASSEMBLY HERALD.

JANUARY, 1901.

## THE NEW CENTURY FOR CHRIST!

A Call to the Church to Put on Her Beautiful Garments and Win the World for Her Lord.

### Missionary Opportunities in the Twentieth Century

By F. F. ELLINWOOD, D.D.

#### Forward!

By THEODORE L. CUYLER, D.D.

#### Some Certainties.

By MALTBIE D. BABCOCK, D.D.

### The Outlook Across the Pacific.

By SHELDON JACKSON, D.D.

## The Missionary Work of the Twentieth Century.

*By F. F. Ellinwood, D.D.\**

The churches of America will enter upon the missionary work of the Twentieth Century under peculiar conditions. The closing decade has added immensely to the area of our mission fields. Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines are providentially assigned to our special charge and the missionary societies of other Christian lands will hold us responsible for their evangelization. The duty of the hour cannot be too deeply felt—too earnestly met.

Meanwhile, we have entered into new and broader relations to the commonwealth of nations. The American people have now a voice and a hand in shaping the general interests of mankind. And it is an auspicious fact that thus far whether in the West or

the East, our national influence has been on the side of moderation and philanthropy as distinguished from a policy of political selfishness. The protectorate of Cuba is the most disinterested that the world has seen; the American policy in China is the most humane.

In close connection with the expansion of our national influence God has opened to His Church corresponding opportunities for the advancement of His kingdom. To meet these opportunities and calls to duty, the closing decade of the closing century has provided abundant means for a campaign of great advance as the new century begins. Never before was this country or any country blest with such a tide of temporal prosperity as that now enjoyed. A hundred years ago the situation was very different. In missionary enterprise it was a day of small things in all Protestant nations, and when at the close of the first decade the American churches began to organize their work for Foreign Missions on a broader scale the outlook was

\* The Assembly Herald rejoices to have Dr. Ellinwood lead off in a bugle call for spiritual conquests during the twentieth century. As Secretary of the Foreign Board for more than thirty years he has been identified with the marvelous march of Christianity during this generation, and he can speak of the future with the open vision of "experience that doth attain to something of prophetic strain."

## Forward!

*By Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D.*

The eyes of the American people have never been so turned towards the work of Foreign Missions as during the last few months. One cause was that magnificent Ecumenical Conference—which, by the way, had much of its initiation and inspiration from our Presbyterian Board-room. The other cause has been the deplorably tragic events in Northern China and the martyrdom of so many heroic missionaries. The first outcry that Christ's missionaries had been chiefly responsible for the anti-foreign crusade has been happily silenced and the testimonies to the priceless value of missionary labor from the highest quarters have been most triumphant. No one can read the narratives of Dr. Morrison to the London Times, with his tributes to the unflinching constancy of the native Christians in the face of death, without a thrill of thankfulness that Christ's new recruits should be ready to lay down their lives for His sake. Every surviving missionary and every living native Christian, and the precious blood of our martyrs at Peking and Paotingfu are all crying out, "No surrender now! No cowardly retreat in the face of our foes!"

China has suddenly become the ground for a decisive pitched-battle. The world is looking on; and heaven also. If our missionaries should turn white in the lips, and counsel retreat, and if our rich American churches should refuse to rebuild those destroyed chapels and hospitals and printing rooms the cause of Christian missions would suffer a fearful back-set over the whole world. The banners of Christ Jesus would be half-masted everywhere! There would be a jubilee in hell over the triumph of the powers of darkness. But if the signal "Forward" is hoisted over all China, it will be like Martin Luther's "Here I stand!" in the decisive fight at the Diet of Worms.

The departed nineteenth century has handed over the watchword, "Forward!" to the newborn twentieth. When the last century was in its infancy five godly young men were praying under the historic "haystack" at Williams College that God would show them how to reach the heathen. When the century fired its sun-set gun, there were 15,470 foreign missionaries in the field, with 1,300,000 native

communicants, and over a million of children in the mission schools! The steepest part of the "Hill Difficulty" is already mounted. May God keep His church from lying down for a self-satisfied nap in the "Arbor of Ease" by the roadside! Forward!

We must stop talking about "spreading civilization" and talk more about salvation. Human selfishness believes in civilization for this world; we must strike a note that rings into eternity! Jesus Christ died to save immortal souls; this sin-cursed world never has had, and never will have any other Saviour. The religion of the Cross is the only religion for every people under the whole heavens. Jesus Christ's marching orders to His American churches are—"Go, and preach Redemption to the poor bond-slaves of sin and error and death! Let not your gold and silver be cankered, and your hearts be moth-eaten with commercial prosperity. Speak to my blood-bought people that they go forward!" The departed spirits of Judson and Duff and Livingstone seem to be gazing through the opening gates of the new century and shouting "Forward!" And even the lips of our beloved Van Rensselaer Hodge and his fellow-martyrs are echoing from their unmarked graves in that field of the slain—"Do not stop to weep for us; in the name of Jesus press forward!"

## Some Certainties.

*By Maltbie D. Babcock, D.D.*

1. "God is Love." We Christians have begun to believe it. It is a wonderful beginning. It is the foundation of public and private righteousness, the root of the life of love. Millions have not heard that God is love. They do not dream it and are living in terror of the gods, in attempts to pacify them or to school themselves to the indifference of fatalism. Their religion is no power that makes for character, neither linking them in loyalty to God nor in love to their fellows.

2. "God loves all men." This is all but past our power, perhaps our desire, to believe. Many Christians are behind the times of Samuel. We think the Lord sees as we see and judges by the outward appearance. The color of a man's skin, his place in the grades

of culture or the statistics of commerce are only "the outward appearance" to God. Yet we adjudge a Chinaman, a Papuan, an African incapable and unworthy of Eternal life. Yet he can think and love and will and make the eternal beginning as certainly as we and has done so in every land. Doubt it not. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him (who tasted death for every man) shall not perish but have everlasting life."

3. "Christ has commanded and commissioned us to carry His Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth." The ignorance, the indifference, the wilful disobedience of intervening generations only accent our responsibility and urge us with the greater insistence to do as the early one did—divide with the last unblessed man the Gospel which was committed to our trust. The Gospel is not our possession in fee simple of blessedness, but our trust. Every symbol of our Lord's like "salt," "light," "bread," "talents," "pounds," "fruit," points to our stewardship in the life and love of God. "That I may impart" was Paul's ambition. It is our Lord's expectation. Paul counted himself "a debtor" to the unenlightened because he could see, who once had groped in the dark himself. Saviour Jesus Christ; who is not according "Now are ye light in the Lord." If the light that is in us be darkness to the outside man, doubly dark is it in our Master's sight for it is a sin against light and love. The Christian who is not doing what he can to bring foreign peoples into the Kingdom of our Lord and to his ability reading, thinking, speaking, praying, giving, sympathizing, rejoicing, expecting is not guilty of defect but of defection. "Go ye into the world" admits of no debate and issues immediately into obedience or disobedience.

4. "The Church has only begun to obey her Lord's command." That beginning has been encouraging beyond all estimation. When we consider that Foreign Missions have hardly been incidental in the thought and determination of the Church; that Christians have given but 1-16 of 1 per cent. for the evangelization of the world; that we Presbyterians—reckoned generous—gave less than 2 cents apiece a week as actual church members and less than 2 cents a month as members of Christian

homes; that our actual interest in study and prayer and effort was in proportion to our giving—how supernatural (how dare we say natural?) has been the success of the Gospel in foreign lands! If we reckon what has been done as only a beginning; if we bring our thoughts about Foreign Missions into captivity to the obedience of Jesus Christ; if we awake to the fact that this work is not incidental but fundamental; if we make definite personal decisions in a new allotting of time and thought, of gifts and prayers; if we resolve that the loyalty of those who have put their hearts in this work at home, and of those who have devoted their lives to it abroad and lately given their hearts' blood in the sacrifice of loving heroism and the last full proof of martyrdom, shall be met by something proportionate in our lives, in my life, then shall we see the power of the spirit of our Lord abroad and be aware of His presence at home in measure such as we of this generation have never known. It is only when we "go into all the world" as the Lord has bidden, that He says "Lo, I am with you," as He promised.

Will you make a personal commitment of yourself now to your Master's "uttermost" interests?

## The Outlook Across the Pacific.

*By Sheldon Jackson, D.D., LL.D.*

The Twentieth Century dawns upon a rising empire in Western America. As the discovery of gold in Sutter's mill-race in 1848, and the resulting emigration of the "Argonauts of '49," to California, gave vigorous life to the Pacific coast, in the same manner the Canadian-Klondike discoveries of 1897, and the Alaskan-Nome gold fields of 1899, sent that life bounding to the most northern limits of our country.

Contemporaneously with the advent of our American civilization into Alaska, came on the first of May, 1898, the Battle of Manila, and the "Gateway of the Orient" became an American out-post. If there had previously been any uncertainty as to the future of the Hawaiian Islands, the fall of Manila necessitated their coming under the American flag; as it will also necessitate the building of the Nicaraguan, or some other canal across Cen-