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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