

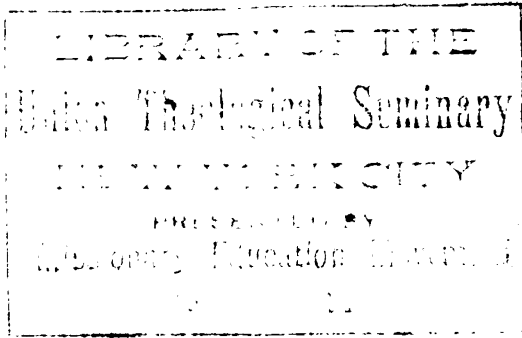
The World-Call to Men of To-day

Addresses and Proceedings
of the Men's Missionary
Convention, held in Philadel-
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Edited by
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XIII

THE PART WHICH THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES (SOUTH) HAS HAD IN
MISSIONS

BY PROF. J. R. HOWERTON, D.D., OF LEXINGTON, VA., MODERATOR

It has warmed my heart very much to be given this opportunity to speak to an audience of the North and to enjoy the extreme cordiality of your greeting to me, which I recognize as representing your feeling towards my church. I can speak not only for myself, but for every member of that church in returning to you that warm fraternal regard.

I will make no apology for telling you of what the Presbyterian men, in the section from which I come, have done in the past, because I am not speaking in the spirit of vainglory but as a means of stimulating those of my own church to greater efforts in days to come and to stir others to emulation.

As Dr. Roberts said that he had confined himself in what he had to say to the history of the American Presbyterian Church, so he has spoken in large part for us, because we claim all the history that is a part of our common inheritance. It will be unnecessary for me to speak of what has been done by our church prior to its separate existence, but even in that previous history I want to call your attention to the fact that up to the separation of the churches, North and South, fully fifty men and women had gone forth from the Presbyterian Church in the Southern States to foreign lands. They hailed from Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama and Kentucky, and we find them in Africa, China, Greece, India, Indian Territory, Japan, British Samoa, Turkey and South America. This list included the names of at least a dozen who would do honor to the roll of the church of any age, and considering the missionary situation at that time, it is a list to which I point with pride.

By beginning her history under circumstances of the greatest triumph, it would not have been a wonder if it had been years before we had been able to develop our missionary work,

but at the very first Assembly, held at Augusta, Ga., December 6th, 1861, it was solemnly declared that the General Assembly desired to inscribe on her church's banner the headship of her Lord, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation," regarding this as the great aim of her organization.

In that same deliverance she said that she "regarded this not only as the great aim of her organization, but obedience to it as the indispensable condition of our Lord's promised presence, and as that one great comprehensive object, the proper conception of the whole vast magnitude and grandeur, is the one thing which, in connection with the love of Christ, can be sufficient to arouse our energies and develop our resources." Nobly has she kept that banner aloft, and nobly has she followed in the path of the first five years of her existence in her foreign missionary work.

From July 1st to December 1st, during the first year of her organization, over \$11,000 was contributed by the church in the South for the support of foreign and home missionary work, and of this sum more than \$2,000 was remitted to the southern missionaries in foreign lands. As you will remember, at that time we were in the throes of war, and our people were impoverished, and the sum given in those six months represented more of a sacrifice and more of a love for Christ than the more than \$250,000 which she is now sending for the support of foreign missions, and as much, at least, as the millions which you are sending into the foreign field.

Even as early as '66 we began our mission in China. It was not until 1893 that we sent two men into the African field, two young men, one white and the other colored, whom we appointed to go forth into the Congo Free State. The names of these young men were Lapsly and Sheppard. They went forth into a region that had never been explored by any white man or colored man. Sheppard was left alone broken-hearted at his comrade's death, but determined alone and single-handed to continue that work and carry it out, and he pressed on, and by the providence of God he was permitted to finish his work and was honored upon his return in being made a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain for the intelligent account

he gave of this country in Africa and of how he established a mission there. The story of how he escaped again and again with his life from poison and from the assassin's knife and penetrated into the jungle, is interesting. With simple modesty he told his story through our South-land, speaking of it as if it were something for which he deserved no praise whatever. Now, after a period of fourteen years, there are seven thousand communicants out there in the very heart of Africa. About our work in Korea and our work in Cuba I have not time to speak. I have given you this brief review in order to show you that we stand and have stood from the very beginning upon the same platform with you and that we have the same inheritance and the same purposes. But, brethren, it is not merely for the purpose of stimulating to work by the pride we have in our church, or zeal for future mission work, but for quite another purpose that I have called your attention to these things. It is not by pride of ancestry or pride of church that we can be aroused to this great work; there is a deeper lesson here. Do you remember that when Israel was encamped on the eastern side of Jordan preparing for that crossing into the Promised Land that the tribes of Reuben and Gad came to Moses and said, "This land is good land and is good for thy cattle and thy servants; let us settle here and possess this land and not cross over the Jordan." Moses indignantly answered, "Shall your brethren go to the war, and shall ye sit here?" My friends, then and there was taught the lesson of the unity of this great cause and the unity of the church. "No," said the leaders of these tribes, "you have misunderstood us. We will leave our wives and children here, but we will go before our brethren, and we will not return to enjoy our inheritance until every man shall have possessed his inheritance in the Promised Land." Now, my friends, does not the same principle apply to-day? Here we are on the east side of Jordan, in the land that is already conquered. Who conquered it? The whole church of Jesus Christ; not you or I. What right, then, have we to sit down in the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of the fruit of Christian civilization and dwell in a Christian land so long as the whole Israel of God is not possessed of its inheritance? Was there not a St. Patrick, a Columbus, a Calvin, a Knox, a Wesley, a Whitfield, a Davis, an Alexander

and a Miller who have made this land for us what it is now? And have we a right to sit down and enjoy the fruits not only of the Presbyterian missions and what they have done in the past, but of what Christian men of all ages of the past have done, unless we bear our part in conquering the whole world for Christ? We have no right to enjoy the privileges of these magnificently endowed institutions and the education which they give, unless we are bearing our part toward putting the same institutions into China and Japan and all over the world. We have no right to enjoy the healing influences of our hospitals, we have no right to enjoy any of these things, unless we are willing to put these things all over the world in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now, brethren, I have heard sermons on that text and read them, but never heard it as a missionary sermon, and I say that it is one of the grandest texts for missionary sermons in God's Word. If you will not go out and fight with your brethren, the land remains in the possession of a heathen nation, and they will return and drive you out; thus "your sin will find you out." Years and years ago our missionaries pointed out this danger and it was regarded as a dream, but now our politicians and our statesmen are talking about "the yellow peril;" it is, as that sainted man has said, "a golden opportunity," but if you do not take advantage of this opportunity, the yellow peril will be not merely a nightmare but an awful reality. There lies sleeping China; do not disturb her slumber, lest she awake to realize the awful power of her four hundred millions. If she awakens in any other way than through the gospel of Jesus Christ, that great tide of heathendom will come rolling back over the portion of the Kingdom that has already been conquered for Christ by the work of the missionaries.

This is the work not of any particular church or of any few in the church, but of the whole church of Jesus Christ. The whole church must work for the evangelization of the whole world. All the forces in the church, preachers and laymen, men and women, are all to work together, until the whole world shall have been conquered for Christ and the prayer answered in this present world, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."