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## CONTENTS "NEW CENTURY" NUMBER.

### The New Century for Christ:

The Missionary Work of the Twentieth Century. By F. F. Ellinwood, D.D.	1
Forward! By Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D.	5
Some Certainties. By Mattie D. Babcock, D.D.	5
The Outlook Across the Pacific. By Sheldon Jackson, D.D., LL.D.	6
A Century's Record of Our Foreign Missions, with Maps	8
Memorial of the Martyrs of Paoingfu	13
Some New Books on China. By Arthur J. Brown, D.D.	14
Clear the Presbyterian Building from Debt	16

### A New Epoch in Home Missions:

A New Century's Message	17
Work for the New Century—Motives. By Charles L. Thompson, D.D.	17
How to Study the Work for the New Century. By D. J. McMillan, D.D.	19
How to Give to Home Missions in the New Century	21
A Serious Situation—What is the Remedy? By John Dixon, D.D.	22
Our Newest Church. By W. S. Holt, D.D.	23
A Young But Fruitful Kansas Church	25
Young People's Department	26

A President's View. By Rev. Daniel W. Fisher, D.D., LL.D. 28

Brotherly Intercession. By E. P. Cowan, D.D. 29

Grateful for Little 30

Gratifying Testimony 30

Consecration of Wealth for the Education of the Young. By E. B. Hodge, D.D. 31

Closing Months of the Twentieth Century Movement. By E. R. Craven, D.D. 33

Presbyterian Churches from Presbyterian Work 33

The Board of Church Erection 35

Laying Down Our Lives for the Brethren. By B. L. Agnew, D.D. 36

Twentieth Century Fund. By B. L. Agnew, D.D. 38

The Twentieth Century Fund of the Presbyterian Church. By Marcus A. Brownson, D.D. 39

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FIVE CENTS A COPY

# 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 MALTBY 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."

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-

tral America, and the girdling of the Pacific Ocean with cables.

The Pacific coast possessions of the United States form a vast crescent, the cord of whose arc reaches along the eastern coast of Asia through 80 degrees of latitude—whose southern horn rests upon Siam, under the burning heat of the equatorial sun, and whose northern horn reaches Arctic Siberia—a crescent that faces Siam, Japan, and Siberia—that faces over four hundred and fifty-five millions of people, or nearly one-third of the population of the entire globe.

The five closing years of the Nineteenth Century have changed the entire future of the United States. The change is recognized in the public mind, but the full significance of the change is comprehended by none. The strongest and most far-reaching minds can only gather up some of the facts along the edge. As usual, the world takes hold of opportunities sooner than the Church. In the spring of 1897, all along the Pacific coast, property was being foreclosed, manufactories were being shut down, building operations were suspended, mechanics and others were leaving the cities by thousands, investments were at a stand-still, churches were declining, and some ministers were forced from their flocks for want of support.

With the discovery of gold in far off Alaska, the ebbing tide of discouragement was stayed, and in the fall of 1897 in that same region property was being reclaimed, notes were being paid in full, principal and interest; the discouraged had taken new heart, and business in all its branches had revived. In 1898, this upward progress received a new impulse in the acquisition of the Hawaiian and Philippine Archipelagos, until now every industry is in full blast, and there are not hours enough in the day to do the work that busy brains are attempting.

The great trans-continental railways seeing the traffic looming up in the opening century, set thousands and thousands of men at work along their lines. They are spending millions upon millions of dollars in the betterment and shortening of those lines. Solid embankments are taking the place of trestle-work bridges, and straight tunnels through the mountains are shortening up the winding curves through the valleys.

The ship yards, particularly on the Pacific coast, are crowded with work—ships cannot be built sufficiently fast to meet the demands of the new order of things. Some of the trans-continental railway companies are building fleets of the largest and most improved ocean steamers for the trade with

China, Japan and Siberia. Last season, having need of a steam schooner for the Government reindeer work in Alaska, I tried in vain to find one disengaged on the Pacific coast. Then, through the State Department and the United States Consul in Japan, I made an effort to secure a vessel in that country, which also failed.

But what are the bearings of all this on the Church? If greatness of opportunity, and abundance of means, and the progress of the Church in consecration are any measure of duty, how vast and overwhelming the call to action at the opening of the Twentieth Century.

Never in the history of the world has there been a greater opportunity. In addition to all former open doors in other parts of the world the Philippines, Porto Rico and Cuba with their ten millions of immortal souls, who have from the beginning of their history been shut out from the Gospel of Christ, are now open and accessible. Three years ago the combined power of all the Missionary Societies in the world could not have given them the Gospel. To-day there is nothing to prevent the smallest of the Mission organizations of the land, from having a share in the work. The barriers that stood firm through nineteen centuries of the Gospel era have been broken down, and God's providence calls upon the American Church to make haste and occupy.

The rapidly developing trade between the Pacific coast and Asia, gives us an opportunity to reach one-third of the heathen world, that is not possessed by any other nation, and that was never possessed by this nation until now.

When God calls the Church or nation to a great work He provides the means. Never in the history of the world, and in no other land has such a vast wealth been accumulated in so many hands, or so large a proportion of the people in the middle walks of life secured a competency with "enough and to spare," and much of this competence and wealth is in Christian hands. Never in the history of the world has there been so large a company of thoroughly prepared young men and women, asking to be sent to the mission field.

An exercise of true Christian stewardship on the part of the churches of the United States would furnish the mission societies with ample funds for sending out this great company and evangelizing the world in the first half of this opening century.

The Twentieth Century looks not only upon the opportunity with the means in Christian hands, and the workers ready to be sent, but also upon a Church growing in consecration, copying more and more closely the example of Jesus, who though rich, became poor for our sakes, glowing with missionary zeal and entering with prayer and enthusiasm upon a new century of work.