

World Missionary Conference, 1910

(To consider Missionary Problems in relation to the Non-Christian World)

THE HISTORY AND RECORDS OF THE CONFERENCE

TOGETHER WITH
ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT THE
EVENING MEETINGS

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VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

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*Delivered in the Assembly Hall on Thursday
Evening, 23rd June*

THIS has been a very wonderful gathering. I can fancy what an experience it has been for some who have come from the far and lonely places of the field, to see this great assembly of men and women engaged in the same work as theirs gathered together from all parts of the world. How they have rejoiced to see pictured before them visibly the greatness of the cause that they are engaged in! How this thought has come upon us during our meetings day by day: the magnitude of the task that is before the Church, the greatness of the interests involved—the interests of immortal souls, the interests of the nations of the earth, and the interests of the human race. We have had unfolded to us day by day the greatness of the questions which are arising in the mission field. We have seen some of the greatest intellects in the country, because they belong also to the Church of Christ, giving themselves to the solution of those problems and recognising their greatness and their complexity. We have realised something of the greatness of the work. We have surely realised this also, the tremendous demand that that work makes upon all our energies and upon all our resources. Nothing is too great to give to this work. Nothing is adequate for it. We have realised that all we have been giving, all that the Church has been giving, is little compared with what is required for this great work. We realise that it requires all the resources of

the Church, all the statesmanship of the Church to use these resources, and that every effort must be made to work together to economise resources, to prevent friction, and to carry out the work in a way worthy of the greatest cause committed to men.

What a wonderful thing it must have been to men who have been living solitary lives in the midst, not only of heathenism, but also too often of carelessness and indifference of those who are called by the Christian name, away in the lonely parts of the field, in the solitude which is worse than any physical loneliness—to come and find gathered round about them men, not only from all parts of the world, but from all sections of the Christian Church, animated by the same spirit and drawn together in unity by the same aim and purpose. There has been a far greater amount of unity in the meetings than in the speeches. It has been the atmosphere in which we have lived. But we do not for a moment think that we have had anything to do with this. We should not care for it half so much if we did not realise that it was the Lord Jesus Christ in our meetings that produced this spirit of unity. We have felt this unity, not because we have wanted to feel it, not because we have striven to get up a sentiment and an enthusiasm in our meetings, but because we have gathered round the one Lord realising the one work that He has given to us all to do. It is to the Lord Jesus Christ that we have been drawn. We remember that the work is His, that the claim is His, that His is the right to reign. It is not our denomination that we want to advance. It is not our prosperity that we want to secure. Oh that the Lord would cleanse our hearts to-day, as surely we desire our hearts to be cleansed, that there might be nothing of self-seeking in us at all, but only devotion to the sacred name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Our hearts have been gathered round Jesus in another way. We have felt that the work was far greater than anything we could achieve. We have felt that the work was beyond—we have said it over and over again—beyond a divided Christendom. It is altogether beyond even a united Christendom except for the Lord Jesus Christ. "Apart

from Me ye can do nothing." And in this great work of ours it is this Lord Jesus whom we acknowledge, to whom we are looking for help and for strength, in whom is all our hope of victory. How our hearts have burned within us, brethren, day by day, when we have heard men in short quick speeches one after another telling of what He has done, of progress made, of victories won, of the cause going on because the Christ is leading. We have been stirred in our hearts because we have met with our Lord. We feel that we have seen Him. We have seen Him as the main-spring of victory and of action. We have seen Him as a sympathising fellow-worker. We have lived happily for these days under the influence of our beloved Master, and we desire to carry with us the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ from this Conference. We desire to go from this Conference realising His presence as our power for His service,—hearing His call for service and answering it because it is a call to Himself; not dissociating His service from Himself, but taking up the burden that He bore and following close to Him. We want to present our Saviour to the world: we know no other name. We want also to give that same Lord Jesus Christ to our brethren. In all our association with our brethren we want to carry Him with us. We do not want to leave Him behind in any sphere of human fellowship at all. We want to carry Him and His presence to the Church and to the world.

How the Lord Jesus Christ the Crucified has laid hold of our hearts! You know it is so—you know it is so. There are many that might look upon us and judge us and say, "Poor hearts that have not loved their Lord." But Thou that knowest all things, Thou knowest that we love Thee. Thou hast bought us with Thy blood. Thou hast given Thyself for us, Thou hast died for us. We are Thine and we love Thee. We want to carry this love of Christ to our brothers and to the world. We want to know nothing save Christ and Him crucified: to know Him in the power that He has over our own hearts, to know Him in the power that He has over the Church which He has bought, and to know Him in the power that He has to draw sinners to

Himself and save them through His blood. And it is He who says, "Lo, I am with you **always, even unto the end of the world.**" I do not know **whether our hearts could dare to say,** "If Thy presence go **not with us, carry us not up hence,**" whether we would rather cease to move **than move without Him ;** but I do know that this **alternative is not before us.** We have His own promise. **Hear the voice of the Truth, hear the voice of the true unchanging Friend, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever:** "Lo, I am with you **always, even unto the end of the world.**"

Now we have to scatter. I cannot say but that this word is a painful word to say after these **ten days of happy fellowship.** We have to scatter and go every man to his work ; and yet is it not well? The work is waiting. His work is urgent. We are going to the work ; and we are not going as we came. We have better views of the work, clearer views of its magnitude, brighter views of its prospects. We know each other better. We have looked one another in the face, and we will never get this vision that we now have before us out of our minds. When you are far away, you that are going to the distant places of the field, you will remember that you have left behind you in this town of Edinburgh,—ay, and in hundreds of places to which these delegates are being scattered,—men who are praying for you, thinking of you, loving you, sympathising with you, holding up your hands.

We have firmly determined to continue the spirit and to carry on the work of the Conference. We want more than that, we want to carry it on in our own hearts, each one of us for himself, to go away with a heart full of what the Conference has given, of what the Lord Himself has given at the Conference. We want to go away and put it into our lives. We have not had time yet to understand it all. We will go in the strength of this food for many days. We will carry forward the spirit of the Conference, what it has taught us of the work, and what it has taught us of our brethren. But there is one thing above all things, dearly beloved, that we will not forget. We will remember what the Conference has taught us about God. It is a mighty army this of ours,

even here as we are gathered together. It is a mighty army when we think of the things it has accomplished ; but it is a mighty army above all because God is in it. "God is not a man that He should lie, neither the Son of man that He should repent. . . . He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath He seen perverseness in Israel : the Lord his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them. . . . Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel : according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought !" Let us, as we separate from one another, go in the strength of God, and stay ourselves on our God.