

Address

Congregational Home
Missionary Society
Annual Meeting

No 14 Vol. 8

Subject

President's Annual
address

General Meeting
Ministry of
Transportation & Works
Delaware

Vol 14 V.C. 8

August
President General
Secretary

Address of Gen. O. O. Howard:

Brethren of the Home Missionary Society, we have come together under circumstances very different from what we contemplated at our parting a year ago in Saratoga. We were then longing for a new baptism of the Holy Spirit both upon our workers and our contributors, and we were very earnestly inquiring of the Master how the apparent apathy could be broken up, and how the people induced to open their hearts and minds to more enthusiasm, more earnestness, more consecration to the work of winning men to Christ. There appeared to be a lull, a quiet as before a storm, and all lovers of Christ who were especially devoted to His cause were ^{already} very anxious with regard to the future.

Our Lord has His own ways of leading men. He has led our people and our President in a way since then that they did not dream of, step by step, to face new difficulties and new problems. In my judgment ~~He~~ is requiring us as He did in the days of slavery, to remove obstacles out of His path. The obstacles that have now come to the front are centuries of extortion, murder, assassination, the slaying of hundreds of thousands of innocent people by slow starvation, and avarice, and a tyranny prolonged which no pen can describe. ^{Shaw's}

As you will remember, we wanted to do all things by peaceful methods. ^{splendid, & prayed}
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Articulation

reformation of nations. Arbitration we had settled upon as something that would cause all wars to cease and all blood-shed and cruelty resulting therefrom. We looked at our own Supreme Court. We saw how difficulties of every nature were settled by its decisions between states, so that war between the states was not likely to occur again. We strongly believed that if we could have a national tribunal like that of our Supreme Court somehow established, not very clearly defined to our minds, ^{but} which would carry out its decisions into practical execution, that no possible contingencies would arise to make war a possibility, a necessity; and yet, with a President thoroughly Christian, conscientious to the last degree, loving peace and peaceful methods with all his heart, we have come into the midst of another war, between this nation and Spain. Our navy, promptly organized and quickly enlarged, has already struck heavy blows, and the army, more than 100,000 strong, stands ready or is already en route to seize and hold territory beyond the limits of our domain. I feel myself that nations have not yet progressed far enough, nor have peoples been yet thoroughly instructed enough in the principles of human liberty and righteous law to warrant a reasonable expectancy of universal arbitration. The stream will not rise higher than its fountain, and the level of the international law is the highest reach nations can attain and hold at the beginning of the twentieth century. God grant that ^{the Nations} ~~they~~ may progress more and more till the Christ spirit shall rule in the earth. According to my own settled conviction the Lord Himself is present in the affairs of nations, and if He does not, as He doubtless does not, initiate conflicts

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Arbitration

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like the one in which we are engaged, yet He overrules them to the removal of obstacles ~~which~~ stand in the way of human progress. Our ^{Society} Missionary has its part to perform. While we are carrying relief to the Cubans; while we are intervening by force to extinguish infamous government and establish a stable and wholesome one in Cuba, let us remember to do nothing in hate, to entertain no malice, to cherish no spirit of revenge, but to go forth to our work and to our sacrifice with an earnest desire to do the will of the Almighty. To this end it will be necessary for every man ^{who follows Christ} to examine himself, to lay aside every weight and besetting sin, and to look constantly towards his Master, to be filled with His spirit, that He may accomplish His purpose.

Further, there has been no time when the gospel should be preached with more fervor and more universality, if I may so speak. I have seen lately thousands of young men looking up into the face of those who have been proclaiming the good tidings, of those who have been able to show them the way out of darkness into light, out of discontent into contentment. There never was a time when the whole Home field needed more work and more sacrifice than now. So let us look to all the churches and to all the brethren who love our Savior and ask them to make unusual sacrifices that we may be prepared as a people for the work that is upon us and in prospect.

When peace ^{shall} come and our hearts are united north and south, east and west, oh, that we might be prepared to carry the glad tidings of great joy in simplicity and in thoroughness ^{not only to all at home but} to all who come to us from other

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Brethren, I would not in any way undertake to lead or constrain your own convictions of duty, but I beg of you at this epoch, which appears to me to be the beginning of convulsions and revolutions in human society, to ^{put} yourselves, you who are leaders in missionary work, in the attitude of diligent hearers, ready to receive such revelation as the Lord ^{& give out} ^{by His Spirit} our Savior may give you directly or out of His Holy Word.

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But brethren, I would not in any way undertake to lead or constrain your own convictions of duty, but I beg of you at this epoch, which appears to me to be the beginning of convulsions and revolutions in human society, to yourselves, you who are leaders in missionary work, in the attitude of diligent hearers, ready to receive such revelation as the Lord