Address
Congregational Home
Missionary Fund
Annual Meeting

No 14 Vr c 8

Subject
Resident Annual Address
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 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.

As you will remember, we wanted to do all things by peaceful methods. We wanted to extend our influence from men to men and from nation to nation by fostering every element of peace and good will. We seem to think that the gospel properly proclaimed and sufficiently proclaimed would accomplish not only the redemption of our own society, but the
Interests of the Home Missionary Society, we have come together under

to present a very different form with no contraction of our purpose to

the same end. To say simply, we are giving form to a very partial view

Hitherto spirit points upon our work in the home society and our

improvement in the nature of the work. Now we find the people inclined to

demand more and more especially of the work and time of the society.

or, in other words, more experience, more connection, more connection to the work of

and more recognition. The place for which the home society can make a

willing to see it yet, and if for some of the work more especially devoted to the

same purpose, the home society with the people in the home society and time to

come more and more into action with regard to the work.

Our Lord and His own ways of teaching men. He has led our people any

we present to a way where there is no fear of the hour of our,

of the present and of the way that there are other things that mean something, it is important to

bring to bear all the means at our disposal to remove obstacles and

of the present. We are not prepared to give up the cause of the

a close of the question. "What shall be the result? the answer to...

Canadian Missionary Society in their presentation and summary, we

As you will remember, we were led to call upon our bodies to

We may say at least that we have been, and are now ready to

as a glance at the army of the free and the whole of

We have sought to express our opinion from our new and new view to


"The completed group of the Canadian Missionary Society, and are ready to present

money occasionally not only for the interest of our own society, but the
reformation of nations. Arbitration we had settled upon as something that would cause all wars to cease and all bloodshed 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, 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 on 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 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
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 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 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 comes 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 to all who come to us from other
When our enemy comes near, we must see what we are about. We must see to it that we are prepared to meet the enemy.
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 our Savior may give you directly or out of His Holy Word.