

(December 16th, 1907.)

The Brotherhood of Man.

BY MR. J. CAMPBELL WHITE, SECRETARY OF THE LAYMAN'S
MISSIONARY MOVEMENT.

ADDRESSING the Canadian Club on "The Brotherhood of Man," Mr. J. Campbell White, of New York, secretary of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, said:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Canadian Club of Toronto.—The honor you have done me in inviting me to be a guest at your luncheon here this afternoon is sincerely appreciated. I have become interested in learning of your Club, its history, its character and its objects. I feel assured it has a great work before it; it is calculated to do much good and to develop within you all that spirit which accomplishes so much for the community.

Joseph Cook once said that during the nineteenth century the world had become one neighborhood. During the twentieth century it should become one brotherhood. Neighborhood without brotherhood may be both irritating and perilous.

There is much in the thought. No brotherhood is worthy of the name that does not seek to share its best life and opportunities, whether they be physical, mental or moral. It is strange that physical needs appeal most to the average man. A great famine in India or China calls out the sympathy of the civilized world. But this is a crisis, a gruesome world event, something which, with appalling dramatic force demands the attention of all peoples. Yet, akin to acute famine conditions, is the ordinary poverty of vast multitudes of people in the Orient. Probably forty millions or more in India alone are always on the border line of famine, and may be said never to have enough to eat.

More distressing still is the lot of the sick and diseased of the Orient. Apart from a few great cities where there are qualified doctors, and apart from the work of a few medical missionaries, the vast bulk of the population have no scientific treatment of their diseases. Every instinct of humanity should prompt us to extend to them the same medical and surgical skill which are the glory of our modern civilization.

And a great work is already being done in this respect. Some individual medical missionaries are treating as many as sixty thousand patients in a single year. But an amazing amount yet remains to be accomplished. The whole of China ought at once to be occupied with a net-work of medical colleges, with professors from North America and Great Britain—men who would raise up an army of qualified Chinese doctors—thus lifting from over four hundred millions of people the heavy burden of unnecessary suffering. It is difficult to understand how anyone who can appreciate the need of a hospital in one of our own cities, can fail to realize the importance of extending such privileges to those less favorably situated. The call of humanity is surely to us in this matter.

If all instincts of true brotherhood would urge us to think and act with sympathy for the physical ills of our common humanity, the same instincts should prompt us to remove the barriers to the mental and moral development of nations. Who can measure the loss to the thought and intelligence of the world from the fact of many hundreds of millions of our fellow men not being able to either read or write? Ignorance and fanaticism are twin sisters. It is a serious menace to the peace of the world for a nation to be taught modern methods of warfare before its population generally is able to read and write.

Yet this is exactly what is occurring to-day in China. It also involves serious risks for a nation's leaders to be given the advantages of Western education, without any corresponding moral training to fit them for the exercise of their augmented influence. A trained villain is more dangerous than an ignorant one.

It is this situation with which Great Britain is now confronted in India. Millions of men have been taught English who have never learned self-control. An effort has been made to teach morals without teaching religion.

But this has proved a dismal failure. In India, as here, men know better than they do; and it is not only higher standards of morality that they need to be taught, but chiefly, perhaps, the secret of living up to the highest moral standards they know. Only a vital faith in a living God can produce substantial moral character. It is the Truth that sets men free; even a sincere belief in falsehood cannot do it.

What we all need to-day is a wider and fuller conception of the great principle of the brotherhood of man, a realization of our personal responsibility to our fellows. We want to bathe the whole world in that spirit of brotherhood. It should

be all embracing, knowing not race, creed, nor clime. We call ourselves Christians; that is the Christ spirit.

The Canadian Club can do much to foster such a sentiment. May each member go out from the Club into the world about him with eyes to see and ears to hear, ready at all times to extend the helping hand to any brother in distress, ready to give the word of encouragement to any brother who may falter in the long, hard struggle of work-a-day life, ready to do his part to make the world about him better, to breathe the big family atmosphere all about him. In such a manner can we all hasten the dawn of the greater federation of the world and all men shall be brothers indeed.