

THE CONQUEST OF THE CONTINENT

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The conquest of the continent by Hugh Latimer Burleson

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HUGH LATIMER BURLESON

**THE CONQUEST
OF THE CONTINENT**

THE CONQUEST OF THE CONTINENT

BY

HUGH LATIMER BURLESON

Missionary Bishop of South Dakota

*"Like a mighty army
Moves the Church of God."*

Sixth Edition

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FOREWORD

THIS book is the outcome of a course of lectures given in two succeeding summers at the Cambridge Conference for Church Work. Only because of the encouragement there received does this volume now appear. The author finds himself under many obligations—so many that it will be impossible to mention all the sources from which inspiration and assistance have come. Particular acknowledgment should be made of the help found in "The Territorial Growth of the United States," by Dr. W. A. Mowry, which is the basis of Chapter I. Many others have furnished help and suggestion which, interwoven with the author's personal experience, give these pages whatever of value and vividness they possess. They have been penned in the hope that they may throw some light of interest and romance upon the neglected home missionary and the domestic field, and that those who read them may see the Church as the great missionary agency, and the Gospel delivered by and in the Church as the supreme Missionary Message.

PREFACE.

IT is gratifying to know that a fifth edition of this book becomes necessary because it has been found to have permanent value in the thought and study of the Church. Issued first in September, 1911, as the Mission Study book for that year, it passed through four editions,—a total of 20,000 copies—during the first year. The author is conscious that this arises because the volume fills a real need rather than from any conspicuous merit in the book itself. Nevertheless he may be allowed to express here his feeling of deep gratitude to the large number throughout the Church who, by words and acts of generous approval, have helped the book to do its work. That it still has a work to do is cause for added thankfulness.

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PROLOGUE

“ UNTO THE UTMOST SEA ”

NARROW and strait the cradle of our race
Lay by the border of the Eastern Sea.
For that which once seemed wide enough domain
While yet with childish feet the nation walked
Between the ocean and the mountain wall
That towered to westward, was a garden plot
When restless, eager youth came on apace;
And the new flag, but late unfurled to air,
Yearned for an azure field wherein to plant
The silver stars that told of states new-born.

And so through mountain-pass and forest-aisle,—
Even before the din of war had ceased
And minute-men had turned them to the plough,—
With wary feet and keen discerning eye,
Grasping his ready rifle, but with face
Set ever westward toward the lands beyond,
The eager Leather-stocking took his way.

And not in vain; for when in distant France
Peace was concluded with the mother-land,
Franklin and Jay and Adams claimed the realm
Which to the nation gave the chance to live.
No longer did the Alleghanies rise
To place a barrier which we might not pass;
But to that central river whose great flood
Seeks with unerring course the Southern Sea
The tide of conquest poured resistlessly.
And thus the land of Lincoln and of Grant
Was joined to that of Washington and Lee.