

# **THE FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH**

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The future leadership of the church by John R. Mott

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**JOHN R. MOTT**

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BOOKS BY JOHN R. MOTT

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STRATEGIC POINTS IN THE WORLD'S  
CONQUEST.

THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE WORLD  
IN THIS GENERATION.

THE STUDENTS OF NORTH AMERICA  
UNITED.

THE PASTOR AND MODERN MISSIONS.

# THE FUTURE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH

By JOHN R. MOTT, M.A.

GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD'S  
STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION

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## PREFACE

THIS book is addressed to the leaders of the Church, both ministers and laymen, and to all others who are deeply interested in the progress of Christianity. It is largely the result of investigations carried on during the past six years in all parts of the world. These studies were undertaken at the suggestion of several ministers who had been impressed by the successful efforts of the Student Volunteer Movement in enlisting strong men as volunteers for the foreign mission fields and who were burdened with a sense of solicitude because of the dearth of able candidates for the home ministry.

The sources of information consulted and the methods employed in the investigation may be briefly indicated. Conferences have been held with companies of the foremost ministers, theological professors, editors of religious

periodicals, and officers of denominational societies in different parts of North America, Europe, Australasia, and South Africa, as well as on all the principal foreign mission fields. Correspondence has been conducted with hundreds of the ministers of the various Christian bodies. Discussions have been carried on at many conventions of theological students; also, in universities of different countries, with young men intending to become ministers. Even more suggestive have been the free and frank discussions with selected groups of young men planning to devote their lives to teaching, law, medicine, literature, engineering, and other lay pursuits. The thousands of interviews held, during a period of twenty years' work in colleges, with young men who have come to talk over their life-work plans have been made tributary to this investigation. With the aid of special helpers there have been examined the proceedings of the ecclesiastical gatherings, the year-books and the periodicals of all the leading denominations of the United States and Canada, as well as the reports of societies dealing with questions bearing on candidates for the ministry, cov-

ering a period of one, and in some cases, two or three generations. Similar but less extensive investigations have been made in some foreign countries. Time has been spent in libraries which possess the most complete book and pamphlet literature on the subject of the discovering, enlisting, and training of candidates for the ministry.

Comparatively little of the material accumulated is used in the book. Some may question why more of the statistical data has not been employed; but the further I proceeded in the examination of statistics, the stronger became the impression that in many cases generalizations drawn from such material would be misleading or, at any rate, confusing, and would raise more questions than they would answer. This is due to marked differences in various sections of the same country, in the character of various types of colleges, in the terminology and practices of various denominations, and in the conditions which characterize different periods in rapidly changing countries like the United States and Canada. While the minute study of the evidence obtained in such an investigation has been of distinct help both in