"Go Up and Take Possession"

This deeply thoughtful and interesting discourse on home missions was delivered recently by Rev. Edward R. Leyburn, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, at Durham.

Duet. 1.21. "Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged."

The land spoken of here is the land of Canaan. The children of Israel, after their deliverance from the bondage and oppression of Egypt, had started on their journey toward this fair land of promise, but when they reached the border of it at Kadesh-barnea, they halted and hesitated for fear of the giants and the walled cities ahead of them. It was then that Moses gave them the exhortation of the text: "Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged." But you remember how shortly Israel failed through fear of the obstacles and difficulties and failures and refused to go forward and take possession of the land that God had promised to give them. You also remember the sad story of the forty years of weary and homeless wandering in the desert and all the losses and sufferings that afterwards came upon them and their descendants because of this miserable failure.

It is not my purpose to [illegible] the history of Israel and show how different that history would have been if they had behaved differently at Kadesh-barnea, and had gone in then and taken possession of the land that God had promised to give them and their home. I wish to take Israel and that God spoke to Israel through Moses as an exhortation to our generation to go in and take possession of America for Christ for our children, and for our God. Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee: fear not, neither be discouraged.

THE LAND: ITS SITUATION.

This land which God hath given us as our home and the field of our conflicts and conquests is the most highly favored land on the globe. Its situation is ideal. It is in the North temperate zone, in which zone all the great and hardy and enterprising races that have made history have lived. It lies between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and the Gulf of Mexico. It faces the Atlantic, facing the cradle of Europe. Its West, with its fine harbors, faces China and Japan and Korea, the great country which is making such wonderful strides in civilization and progress, and which is destined to grow to enormous proportions. The coast of Mexico, with its fine harbors, central and South America, is [illegible] wonderful resources and their marvelously rapid development. The Panama canal, when opened, will bring New York geographically [illegible] to the coast of Peru, [illegible] will mean more than we can now realize. [illegible] trade [illegible] Mexico [illegible] central and South America