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OPEN-AIR PREACHING.

I was much interested in reading the editorial, "Doing vs. Complaining," in the last number of the *Canadian Independent*. I can heartily endorse its stricture on the remarks of the influential layman, and the writer, who "could not dispute his ground."

Upon careful examination, it is generally found that those who complain most, do a "pitiably small" portion of the work, and offer "a poor investment," to the Missionary Committee in order to strengthen their hands in carrying on the work of the Lord.

I have not been long in this country, but so far I have been able to observe, the Congregational Church will compare favourably with other churches, when its strength is taken into account. The Lord bless all the churches in the work of winning souls to Jesus!

The question is asked, "Why do you not push out and 'possess the land,' as the Presbyterians, and the Methodists are doing?"

There is a great field before us, and many are perishing for lack of "the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus." There are many ways in which we ought to push out, and "possess the land," and it may not be out of place to look at *one way* in which it may be accomplished—viz., by OPEN-AIR PREACHING. For various reasons I think it important to invite attention to the above-subject at this season of the year.

As a number of good people depreciate out-door preaching, it may be necessary to ask what the teaching of God's word is on the subject. Has open-air preaching been sanctioned or practised by the Master himself? Can we point to any examples in Scripture of those who were called to preach the Gospel, doing so in the open-air; those who have the slightest acquaintance with the word of God, understand that in the Old Testament, as well as in the New, open-air preaching is both enjoined and exemplified?

Our Divine Master preached on a mountain side, "and seeing the multitudes He went up into a mountain, and He opened his mouth and taught them." He preached by the sea-shore, in boats, and on the streets of Capernaum. Did He not preach in the Temple and in the Synagogues of the Jews? Yes, but, less is recorded of his sermons on those occasions, than of his open-air sermons. Is the servant greater than his Lord? If the Master preached in the open-air, so ought the servant; nothing should be degrading to him, which the master established by His own example. We ought to get all we can into the churches, and go into the streets and lanes of the cities, and into the highways and hedges, and preach Christ to them there. The great Apostle to the Gentiles was celebrated as an open-air preacher; the first Gentile convert to Christianity in Europe was under his preaching "by a river side." We find him on Mars Hill, almost in the centre of the City of Athens, where he condemned the idolatries of the city, and urged the people to seek and serve Jehovah as the only living and true God.