

arsenal whence are brought all the favorite weapons of Infidelity. Corrupt systems, baptized with the name of Truth, have made men infidels by wholesale. The rank and steaming abominations that have been fostered under an assumed garb of religion, have done incredible mischief. Merchandize in the bodies and souls of men, carried on in the name of Christ, or with the pretended sanction of His Book, has made Hell's market doubly brisk. Many a wound Christ has got in the house of his professed friends.

Notwithstanding this, we claim for true religion a high and holy influence. The truth in the Book, the truth in the sermon, is enforced by the truth in the LIFE. "Ye are the salt of the earth." Peradventure ten righteous men had been found in Sodom, they had proved a shield to ward off the blow of insulted Heaven. "Ye are the light of the world." The light they give is reflected from the Sun of Righteousness. The dew-drops of morning are all beautiful as they sparkle in the light, and reflect the image of the sun; and all Christ's people, basking in the sunshine of his love, are demonstrations of the beauty of holiness. Their influence is as a lamp, that shineth in a dark place; or as a beacon, sending forth rays of light across stormy seas. Iron sharpeneth iron, so doth the countenance of man his friend. Thought begets thought. The pure and lofty themes which the soul embraces and brings to bear on others, give forth scintillations of glory, and kindle in the soul the hope of heaven. Heart is moulded into heart; the melting tenderness of Christ, and the touching scenes of his love, influence the heart to love him in return. The key to the heart is kindness; hence the power of a Christian spirit. It exorcises the demon of vengeance; it returns the curse, but changed into a blessing. Such is Christian action, which, while the heavens stand, cannot fail to possess an influence.

Individual Christians, in prominent points of their character, have proved lights in the world. They have added to their faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity. This is the practical Christianity that ought to prevail. Get it, and it will tell on surrounding heathenism, whether home or foreign. A holy life is a great sermon. It is preached in the family, in the work-shop, in the store, in the counting-house; it sounds in the consciences of those who may never cross the threshold of God's house; its echoes come from the grave, where the mouldering dust of him that preached it sleeps till the resurrection. Churches that are composed of faithful men and women, cannot fail to possess a Christian influence. A church of ten consistent members, is stronger and healthier than one of a hundred worldly, selfish professors. Awake, awake! Put on thy *strength*, O Zion! Is there not in the beautiful garments of righteousness an undefinable power—a captivating attractiveness?

Christian influence is needed to bring the world to Christ. This is the best coöperation of members with pastors of churches. The minister must prove what he means in his sermons, by his life throughout the week. Members must honor Christ, by keeping his words, and walking in his steps. A consistent religion will command respect—arrest attention—awaken the conscience—win the heart. It is no new thing, that the unbelieving husband has been won by the chaste conversation of the believing wife. Has it not again and again been testified, that in the dark night of scepticism and sin, an unanswered and unanswerable