

they could get out of the place, or an opening more advantageous presented itself, its usefulness to them was gone. The other side of the question—their usefulness to it—was nowhere.

To a mind schooled in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, how repelling such selfish conduct is! Such a mind would feel that it was unchristian to ignore in that fashion, the just claims the community had upon us. Cromwell might have become a very useful man, had he escaped to America. But he became a blessing to mankind by staying in England. Then why may it not be that the larger opportunity with us, is to grapple with the difficulties about us—to stay where we are, knowing that God is with us, and He “has much people in this city.” There can be no question about it; what we need most of all, is “staying power,” and staying power is the fruit of a faith that grasps God’s purpose, and yields to His will.

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PUTTING ON THE HARNESS.

We read in Scripture of “the time when kings go forth to battle.” According to the usage of ancient warfare this was in early spring. The soldiers remained in the field till the approach of winter, and then withdrew into winter quarters, having finished a campaign. There is a time when churches should gird on the armor, but our church campaign is just at the very opposite period of the year to the military one.

It is a fact, but too painfully patent, that during the summer months church life becomes languid; and church operations are, in large measure, suspended. Whether ministers or people are most to blame, or whether both are alike culpable, it is hardly worth inquiring. All know that a restless spirit is abroad, and all are more or less under its influence. Concentration of thought and energy is almost impossible, especially when the united efforts of many voluntary agents are indispensable. Beyond the routine of ordinary duties, all else is hopeless. Fresh undertakings must be postponed, and new work must wait for the more convenient season. Some there are who think all this an indication of Christian degeneracy; but rightly considered it need not be so. It is certain, those who work hard cannot always work;

and any church which pursues its course under full pressure for several successive months, will do well now and again to slacken speed, and look to its engines. Those who travel on at a jog-trot pace all the time need no rest, because they never work.

Most churches, however, have their hands full. Religious activity is all but universal in our day. This is our joy and comfort, that God honors His servants and calls them to be co-workers with Him. The time is here, when all the faithful should put on the harness, and follow their Captain to the field. They ought to enter on another winter’s campaign, strong in faith and hope. There is room for all consecrated hearts, work for all consecrated hands. We need not hesitate because our talents are few, nor stand aside because our education is defective. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, and our Leader is always by our side. The battle-ground is well known, the enemy soon recognized. Sin in every form must be assailed, and whatever opposes the progress of the gospel must be removed.

To accomplish anything, there must be unity of purpose, steadiness of aim. This can be secured by studying and respecting the wishes of our Great Commander. We must have discipline. He will provide the ammunition. Let those who intend to war a good warfare for Jesus this winter, neglect not the means appointed to arrive at efficiency in the holy art. We must not neglect the assembling of ourselves together, whether for conference or for work. Relying on His promise, and looking for the blessing, we confidently press on to conquest and success.

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“WIT IN THE PULPIT.”

This is the subject of an able and suggestive article from the facile pen of Rev. H. R. Haweis, the well-known musical and art critic, which appears in a recent number of the *Contemporary Review*; and it has occurred to me that some extracts therefrom might be of interest to readers of the INDEPENDENT, who may not have the opportunity of reading the English periodicals. Mr. Haweis is a Church of England clergyman, rector of St. James’, Marylebone, and those who read the