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## ASCENSIONTIDE APPEAL, 1898.

**T**HE following Appeal was issued under direction of the Archbishop and Bishops of this Ecclesiastical Province and read on Sunday, May 15th.

*To the Reverend the Clergy and the Members of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada :*

BRETHREN BELOVED IN THE LORD, We the Bishops and Board of Management of our Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society esteem it a high privilege, that we have free access to you, in all your congregations, that on two Sundays in the year we have the opportunity of setting before you, from every pulpit, the principles, the plans, and the progress of the Church's Missionary work.

We are sensible of the responsibility of using these opportunities with all the carefulness of preparation and accuracy and clearness of statement at our command. We spare no pains in order both to inform your minds and to stir them up by way of remembrance.

In no other branch of the Church is the same opportunity secured for the Chief Pastors and those responsible with them for her Missionary work, to reach and influence every Diocese, Parish, and congregation.

Practical and valuable, however, as our Pastoral Appeals undoubtedly are, we do not claim for them the intense and continuous power of personal influence.

The Personal coming of the Son of God to redeem mankind, His presence in the flesh, patiently teaching and fashioning men for His gracious purposes, has consecrated, forever, personal ministrations and personal influence as *the power*, the most direct and the most intense power in Christianity.

The Lord of Glory was not content to send another. He came Himself, in Person, to rescue us from our lost estate, to recreate us and to sanctify us for God.

Christ is Christianity, the Church is the Body of Christ; Christ and His Church are one. It is still Christ in His personal influence which is working among us. The first step in our holy religion is Union with Christ. We are made members of Christ that He may bring His personal influence to bear upon us, that the life in Him may be in us more and more, that out of His fulness we may receive grace for grace, each

grace in us the outcome and the reflection of some all glorious and perfect grace in Him.

We do not then magnify our opportunity above the personal influence, which both Clergymen and Laymen are exercising upon each other in all our Parishes day after day continually.

The Clergyman given to his Ministry a personal as well as an official Ministry like that exercised by the Saviour Himself upon earth, and still continued within the true Holy of Holies : the Layman, his heart touched with the strong desire that Christ shall see of the travail of His soul in the rescue and restoration of all the nations of the earth : the faithful member of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Church's Missionary work : each of these is exercising an influence, not on two occasions in each year merely, but day after day unceasingly, like the leaven, like the sunshine, like the Grace of God.

Our first word to you, then, to day is this. Set yourself to seize your opportunity of promoting the Saviour's work by personal influence, by the impress upon those around you of your own personal love for your Lord, and by personal devotion to the accomplishment of His will that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth. Christ has made you a Christian, united you to Himself, that your love and devotion to Him may be warm and ever growing warmer ; intense, and ever deepening in its power to extend, to overflow upon and into others. Be assured that it is according to the will of God that you should be filled with Christ-like graces.

In strong faith then at once ask that they may be freely bestowed upon you, then exercise them daily, act in the faith that they are within you. Thus shall ye be indeed not merely God's Husbandry and God's Building but workers together with God.

Our second word is this. Seek to make much of the occasion when at Epiphany and at Ascensiontide our great Missionary Society sets before you the principles, the plans, and the progress of the work in the Domestic field and in the Foreign field.

It rests with you either to welcome our words or to set yourself against them. To some we fear our appeals are not welcome. In this there is nothing new, for ever since the Gospel with its blessings and its claims was preached, it has always been to some the savor of death unto death.

Try yourselves by this test. It is simple, clear, and decisive. If the Church's appeal the appeal