

Wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.—Matt. vii. 13.

A LESSON FROM THE PRAIRIES.

WE have received a letter from an old friend and fellow worker, Mr. W. N. Macfarlane, who is now on a mission field in Manitoba. Much of his letter was of course personal, but the following extract has a wide application.

"On the praires here, where the grass grows long, in the spring this grass is often set on fire and burned, after which the land is easier ploughed, and the young grass comes up better than where it is left unploughed. These fires travel with great rapidity a long way, and unless people have guards around their premises, are very dangerous. A guard is a circle of ploughed land of from 6 to 20 feet wide around their premises. Now, strange to say, although every one knows the danger of these prairie fires and the necessity of having a guard ploughed round their houses yet many of them neglect it until they see the fire approaching. One man here whom I know, neglected it even after he saw the fire about a mile away, and thought he had *plenty of time*, but the wind arose and on ran the flames, he then hastily got out his horses and attached them to a plough, but before he could get one furrow made, the fire had got into his premises; and stacks, stables, granary, machinery, pigs, fowls and indeed all he had was burned except the two horses, and all this loss by neglecting about half an hour's work.

This is only one case of many in my district, one young man lost all he had except the clothes he stood in, and they were badly scorched. One could scarcely credit such neglect unless they saw it. Yet it occurs every year in this country.

Reader. How are you acting? Are you prepared? What about a guard? Remember one has been provided. If you refuse to avail yourself of it, "What will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help?" Isa. x: 3.

TRUE EVANGELIZING.

Acts V. 20: 21.

"Go."—This was spoken to the *right men*—men who could fulfil such an errand better than others, not only because they were specially gifted, but because they knew from personal experience the preciousness of the good news they were to declare.

"Stand." They were not to sit, as was usual with teachers, but to stand, and by so doing call more special attention to what they had to say, and show that they came on a special message of great and pressing importance.

"Speak."—That is, as the word indicates, "use the voice"—use it so as to be well heard and understood. This earnestness, this desire to call special attention, show the *right manner* of evangelistic preaching.

"To the people."—Here was the *right class*—the great men, the chief rulers and others, might be and were unwilling to listen to them; but they could find ready listeners among the people, and "to the people" they were to go.

"All the words of this life."—These were the *right words*—"the words of life"—of life everlasting for perishing sinners through the Lord Jesus, who is the way of "this life" by His atoning death on the cross. These were the right words for them to speak as evangelists, and the right words for "the people" as perishing sinners to hear.

"When they heard that they entered into the temple early in the morning and taught."—That was the *right time*, "early in the morning," because at that time and in that place they were sure to gather a large and attentive audience.

This passage of Scripture clearly embodies the true idea of evangelistic work, showing that it consists in *right words, spoken in the right manner, to the right people, in the right place, at the right time, by the right men.*

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.—Matt. vii. 14.