

Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, Sweden. There is no particular commercial depression—no pestilence—no great calamity—the lands are prosperous as to this world: yet there is the mighty spiritual movement—the way of the Lord! Let us know all about it that desire may be kindled to intensity.

*Uncovering faith in the Gospel as a power* prepares the Lord's way. A thorough persuasion that no other Gospel is needed, nor any improvements upon the good old Gospel, which Apostles and Martyrs believed and preached, and in which our fathers gloried, is a healthful sign. The faith meant has not the slightest sympathy with new-fangled notions of Christ's person, atonement, relations to men generally, or to believers in particular: on the contrary, it confides implicitly in the ancient truth aforesaid delivered to the saints, and has confidence that when preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, it works marvels among men. Moreover, it has persuasion that the might of the Holy Ghost will accompany such proclamation in answer to fervent prayer.

*Diligent removal of all obstructions which we may have created*, is a preparation. Personal inconsistency is to be removed by repentance. Worldliness is to be banished by the enkindling of the desires already described. Trust in an arm of flesh, or in the potency of certain machinery, must be superseded by simple faith in the Gospel as a power, and in the Holy Ghost who applies that power. There is often a mode of action designed to advance the work, which is, in fact, an obstruction. The ordinary, scriptural, and time-honoured institution of Christianity may be neglected for the sake of the new and exciting, because, in some cases, these latter have done good. The institution of the local church, and of the ministry, and of the work of such church, is Divine: there is no purpose of heaven to ignore or do away with them;—dishonour is done to their Author and Lord, when they are treated with neglect or contempt. Yet does all experience show that, in a tendency to extremes, these Divine arrangements are apt to be deemed too slow, and to be sacrificed for the new and more exciting.

For the last twenty years it had become a tacit understanding in many quarters, that without a series of special services, accompanied often by anxious seats, no good was to be looked for. The ordinary services of the church were well enough in their place, but protracted meetings were the only weapons by which the enemy's strongholds could be successfully attacked. No doubt, protracted meetings, wisely appointed and conducted, have been of vast service to the cause of Christ, but such an understanding concerning them as this—such a doctrine, is a grievous obstruction to the progress of that cause. Unless we mistake, the present manifestations of Divine power, have already, to a great extent, corrected this error, but let us take care not to fall into some other glorification of machinery. Our God will have all the glory, for to Him doth it appertain.

The spirit of sectarianism, is an obstruction which needs to be removed in preparing the Lord's way, and also all bitterness of contention and strife among christians. The Holy Spirit must not be grieved!

*Personal activity in every good word and work*, is a point which would bear enlarging upon, as preparing the way of the Lord. But space has been trespassed upon already, and we forbear.

Let every disciple of the Lord Jesus understand, that in this day of grace and benediction, there is a voice calling on him or her, personally, saying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." How sad our account at last, if we are not found faithful!

Montreal, 22nd December, 1859.

H. W.