

eagerness to do other ministry, forgets to minister to the spirit ; if, in its ambition to afford innocent entertainment, healthful society, beneficent instruction, it forgets to afford inspiration, it forgets its real function and ceases to be a Church at all.

The more institutional it is, the more inspirational it needs to be. The greater and more complex its body, the greater the need of a pulsating life. Nothing can serve as a substitute for spiritual enthusiasm in the pulpit, in the devotional meeting, in the Sunday-school. If the heart ceases to beat, the corpse may still be beautiful, but it is a corpse ; and the heart of the Church is its devotional spirit—its faith in God, its hope in God, its love for God. The more of the so-called secular work the Church is doing, the greater need of spiritual preaching in the pulpit, fullness of life in the prayer-meetings, and the spirit of prayer in the homes. It is not ecclesiasticism and philanthropy that God has joined together, but piety and philanthropy ; let not man put them asunder. We plead with the preacher, the pastor, the layman, for an access of spiritual force in the heart of the Church—always needed, but never more needed than to-day.
—*The Outlook.*

QUESTION OF THE HOUR.

THE great question of the hour is, How can the immediate proclamation of the Gospel to every creature be made a fact? Other preliminary questions have been answered by the very movements of God's providence and the developments of human history. We need no longer ask how we shall get access to the nations, for the barriers are down ; nor need we inquire how we are to reach these uttermost parts of the earth, for the steamship and the steam-car will bear us to the limits of the

globe in less than two months ; nor need we search the implements and instruments for the work of evangelization, for the printing press offers to make the eye the handmaid of the ear in the rapid dispersion of the Gospel message, and science offers to be the powerful ally of faith in the conquest of the world for Christ. Nor is it a question of adequate force for the field, for the evangelical churches would furnish four hundred thousand missionaries, or one for every two thousand of the unevangelized population, and yet have one hundred at home to support every foreign missionary. It is not even a question of adequate means to support a great army of missionaries, for the aggregate wealth which is at the disposal of disciples is so great that one-tenth of it would amply suffice to sustain half a million workmen in the foreign field and supply all the needed adjuncts and accessories for mission work.

What, then, is the hindrance? We answer unhesitatingly that the Church of God is trifling with human souls and with her own duty. The time has come for plainness of speech. It is not time to put a veil over the face, or a gag in the mouth. Christian missions have never yet been taken up by the Reformed Church as an enterprise to be dared and done for God, like any other enterprise, with promptness and resoluteness.

The grand duty of the hour is, to my mind, as plain as an unclouded sun at its zenith. Faith in the duty and so the possibility of doing it ; energy of action, courageously and promptly doing the King's business, and prayer for power from above. Give us these, and before the generation passes away the world shall hear the Gospel.—*Arthur T. Pier-son, D.D., in Missionary Review.*

CYCLES have rolled since the first Christmas day,
When, from His Father's house the Son came down
To share our sorrows, take our sins away,
And make Himself, for us, of no renown.