

and to the farmer's comfortable home, and to the princely merchant's luxurious palace—to the rum-shops and gin-palaces, to the nameless dens of vice in our towns, and to the lonely wigwam far off in the wilderness. We have to christianize (by the all prevailing help of God) every family—every congregation, till we reach the most neglected fragments and outskirts of settlements, till the whole land becomes vocal with the songs of Zion, and the children of the toiling fisherman and the outcast Indian learn to cry “Hosanna to the Son of David.”

To accomplish this task, which Jesus has laid upon us, every man and woman belonging to our church must to some extent—that is, to the utmost of his and her ability—become a Home Missionary! Every one of us, however poor and ignorant, can do something by word or deed or faithful prayer to advance the great cause.

Ministers must not abate their devotedness and zeal. The work is enlarging, the burden is becoming more onerous every day. Faint not, then, faithful servant of Jesus. Your day of rest is coming surely and sweetly. An eternity of delightful, sacred and loving repose is awaiting you. Christ spared neither health, nor strength, nor reputation in the great work of our salvation. You are his ambassadors and as such it is your highest privilege to be like Him in sorrow and in joy. Preach the truth. Look carefully after every member of your flock, however poor and obscure. Instruct the ignorant. Warn the ungodly. Be gentle, kind, courteous to all. Help your brethren in the ministry. If ministers do not love one another and strengthen each other's hands and overlook each other's faults, who should? Be longsuffering and forgiving. Brethren, the body of Christ has suffered many grievous wounds through your lack of mutual forgiveness and forbearance and tender regard for one another!

Elders hold a highly responsible position in Christ's great army. They are “commissioned officers” bound by every tie of loyalty and love to do duty faithfully for their SOVEREIGN. To them the minister looks for direction and assistance in managing the spiritual affairs of the congregation. They must always be “ensamples to the flock” in all purity, liberality, honesty and every good word and work. The Eldership is one of the characteristic features of Presbyterianism: let us as a Church carry theory into practice, and the result will be most delightful and beneficial. In many of our congregations the staff of elders is too small. The burden comes on a few shoulders that bend wearily under its weight. In such cases the work of the eldership is done but superficially if done at all. Presbyteries should correct this state of affairs wherever it is possible to do so. Our Elders in general are not fully alive to the heavy responsibilities resting upon them as overseers, guides, teachers in the church. Now is the time to waken up to duty, and to do Christ's work with redoubled zeal and energy!

Every member of the church has a work to do for Christ. Every soldier in the army, every sailor in the navy is expected to perform his allotted task, and when the day of battle comes, to shed his blood (if need be) for the honour and safety of his country. If the soldiers of the Queen will fight to the death for her when their reward is but a shilling a day with now and again a few complimentary platitudes from their superiors, or an enthusiastic shout of applause from the multitude, what should we not be willing to do when our reward is boundless and everlasting! God's vows are on us all. We have been baptized in the name of Christ and are therefore recognized as members of his mystical body. We have been enrolled in His army in our very infancy. Shame, shame on the man who will neglect or falsify his baptismal vows!