

EXAMPLE.

Our religion is greatly a religion of example. When Jesus bids us follow Him, we recognize in His will concerning us, not a merely passive acceptance of Him as our guide and Saviour, but a living determined effort, on our part, to help our fellowmen and promote the interests of God's kingdom.

As to how we could best accomplish this, we might be at a loss, had not the Master given us a practical example. "Follow Me," is His admonition. Christ knew the nature of man, and, lest he should seek to screen himself behind the mists of an imagined idea that he had done his best when he had virtually done nothing, he finds further illustrations of his meaning in those whose lives were marked by that faith, good intention and unselfishness which found their acme of splendor and perfection in Himself. When the centurion sent a messenger to Him saying "Lord I am not worthy that Thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only and my servant shall be healed," Jesus in substance replied, this is the best example of faith which I have met with in Israel. When Mary poured the box of precious ointment upon His head, and some murmured because it had not been sold and given to the poor, He virtually said, she has done the best she could, go thou and do likewise. Again, as in the temple He watched those who cast their gifts into the treasury, He saw a poor widow who had cast in all that she had, and said of her, "she hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury," doubtless implying, God demands the same of you, follow her example.

In this nineteenth century, marked as an age of progress and refinement, it is not usually regarded in good taste to hold up for imitation the Christian qualities of any of our fellows in contrast with others, especially in public. The same sentiment may deprecate any

such attempt in relation to congregations, but as our Saviour never hesitated to draw such lines of contrast, and that publicly, our task is divested of much of its difficulty.

Strange are the inconsistencies of men! That which passes unchallenged in politics often meets with a storm of opposition in social and purely religious life. Few will murmur against the laws of God as they are laid down in the book of nature but, when these same laws are written in the Revelation which He has given, a mighty howl is raised against His injustice and cruelty. With such inconsistencies and contradictions before us in the judgments of men, and emboldened and encouraged by our Saviour's departure from the tyrannical rule of custom, we will venture to point the attention of our readers to, at least, one example of Christian liberality and missionary spirit in a small Presbyterian congregation in the Canadian Church.

The congregation in point is situated in the Presbytery of Glengarry, and consists of three country stations, one of which is still in its infancy, having been organized only two years ago. The communicants number 185, and the seating accommodation of all three places of worship is about seven hundred. The people can by no means be said to be wealthy, some being on rented farms, and the best to do worth, perhaps, six or seven thousand dollars. According to the blue book of 1883, this congregation raised a stipend of \$630, and a little larger sum for other purposes. Last year the stipend paid was \$750, and the sum collected for missionary purposes about \$1,200, besides several hundred dollars for other schemes and necessary repairs.

Of the amount contributed to missions, three men contributed \$300, and a fourth who lives on a rented farm, \$75. Besides this, some of the material