

is beyond the strength he has attained. And it is a most dangerous moral training, in my opinion, for a man to be addressing others upon the deepest and holiest spiritual topics as a mere message, when he himself has not yet grown up to it, and there is great danger that while he has begun his work fresh, earnest, and energetic, by the time he enters his parish all his freshness has passed away, and, unconsciously to himself, he has acquired a habit of speaking and preaching words, but not edifying his congregation. Then the next class from which we supply these missionaries are our licentiates. This is a very great improvement, but speaking with the greatest respect, and desiring to say nothing offensive, how is it possible for a man to engage in this most difficult work that requires all his energies, all his zeal, and all his watchfulness, when his great prayer is that God may bring him out of it as soon as possible and give him a parish? (Laughter.) How is it possible for a man to give himself to the work in the only way in which he will succeed, and do it as if it were his last work, as if he had not another week to live, if he feels "this is not my work—it may be work for a minister, but I am here only for two or three months, and the sooner I am out of it the better." How can he watch the progress of religion in the closes? How can he make a personal acquaintance, and cultivate a personal interest among those men and women, and get them to love him and attend to his teaching? I see no reason why, if a man wishes to devote his energies to mission work, and if we have no need of him in India, or if his parents object to his going abroad, he should not, instead of taking twenty years abroad, take three years at home, and, refusing all offers of a parish, work in the Cowgate of Edinburgh as earnestly as he would do if sent to the Cowgate of Calcutta. No doubt other reforms would have to come in. You must pay these men better. And another thing, I would advise patrons to keep this in view. Let patrons, either through the Home Mission Board or in some other way, find out these men. Show me the man that has done his work as a missionary, and the best man as a missionary will be the best man for the parish. (Applause.) The next class of men we have to do with are lay missionaries. Now, what are the defects of lay missionaries? One defect is that they want the education which enables them to meet your intelligent mechanics—that education which enables them to say more than to write in their pocket-books—"Had a conversation with an infidel. He is hard-hearted. His eyes are blinded. I can make no impression on him." (Laughter.) The fact is, the "infidel" turned him head over heels half a dozen times—(Laughter)—but he wrote this nice sort of pious language in his diary, and it really means nothing. This man must be educated in a broader sense than merely to use two or three such phrases. It is all very well to say, "Give me the man with sound convictions." So say I. But he has not the less conviction if he has more information and more knowledge. Then, again, if you take a pious man from honest labour. If a shoemaker says, "I want to give up my shoes and become a missionary," I would much rather say, "Keep to your last, and do your work where you are." (Laughter.) Then come the clergy. Well, I have certainly heard most beautiful descriptions of what is expected from our clergy preaching on week days, and going from house to house and stair to stair. Well, I was able to do it, I think, as fairly as any other man, till within the last two or three years, when partly from not being so strong for the kind of work, and much more from a great deal of Church work being laid upon me, I had to some extent to give it up. I have had some experience, and I tell you that your ladies and gentlemen, your young men and your young ladies, just require as much indoctrinating, as much dealing earnestly with in private, that they might know intelligently the truth and obey it, as many of the poor people visited by the city missionary. What I would recommend would be something like the following. I think that you must develop more than you have ever done lay agency in this way. You will find the right man if you will, as I have done, look out