

The duty of the Evangelist is to excavate the stones, to hew them and bring them to the foundation ; to others he must leave the work of building them up and making them polished stones of the spiritual temple. Our answer then to any who say the office of Evangelist is extinct, is, to point to the Noble Army who are assailing the strongholds of Satan, and are unfurling the blood-stained banner of Immanuel on the frowning battlements of heathenism ; to those who are sending light into the gross darkness, and are establishing here and there the city set on a hill which cannot be hid ; to those who with unnoticed and unhonoured devotedness, are toiling in the lowest scenes of metropolitan misery, to pluck some brands from the burning that they may be bound up in the bundle of life.

But how does this question affect the Canadian field ? A new country filling up so fast, and with a population so heterogeneous, presents to the eye of the contemplative Christian a subject of deep concern. When we glance into the new townships, we find settlers amid all the privations of a new opening, too generally careless about religion. The back-woodsman tho' possessed of a stout arm and brave spirit often wants the devout heart. But even when religiously inclined, the difficulties are frequently great in obtaining the privilege of gospel ordinances, and thus in many places it is necessary to teach the inhabitants almost the first elements of the doctrine of Christ. Besides, Churches are to be organised, believers gathered in, elders ordained, and the ordinary provision made for stated gospel ordinances. To do this is the work of the Evangelist.

Then turn we to our cities. Growing with unequalled rapidity, the population of cities in new territories will, unless active measures be taken to prevent it, soon present the same scenes as those of older countries,—lapsed masses of home heathen. Before another generation has passed away, the social evil and religious blot under which the old world now groans will afflict us. To prevent this, earnest efforts should be made, Churches built, provision should be made for providing every new comer with the gospel, and for instructing his children, and to do this is the work of the Evangelist.

Then if we look to the older settlements, there are not a few places where, notwithstanding the preaching of various ministers, error prevails, and above all, an utter apathy on religious subjects,—where the only religious instruction given is a discourse from some well-meaning person perhaps, who yet has himself need to be instructed,—where no family instruction, no school instruction, no social worship, but practical ungodliness with scarce a form of religion prevails. Can such a state of things continue ? Will not an intelligent, secularly educated, enterprising community, without gospel privileges be sure to pass into infidelity ? To meet this evil, a stated ministry labouring in public and in private and carefully instructing the young is needed, and this is the work of an Evangelist.

But yet again. There are districts passing into popery. In some places Protestants are moving off, and Rome is rearing unchallenged, her crosses, her temples and her nunneries, while the children of Protestant parents are beginning to regard popery without dislike, if not led by intermarriages to bow before her altar. To reclaim Papists is the work of Evangelists. We cannot here enter on so large a subject, as the relation of our Church to our Roman Catholic fellow countrymen. But emphatically we say, to prevent the loss of Protestantism by Popish aggression, to instruct the ignorant, and to care for those who are neglected and left to the darkness and wiles of that apostate Church, is the duty of the true Church and is the work of an Evangelist.

We infer therefore that our Canadian field needs Evangelists. Let us now consider what is being done to overtake that necessity. There are occasional visits paid by ministers to destitute localities, and this will accomplish much. We do not wish to speak lightly of such visits, or to undervalue the hallowed