

A PART OF THE FIELD.



HERE is a large class in our Church who occupy the following attitude in respect to the doctrine of holiness. They are thoroughly Wesleyan in their creed,—that is to say, they believe that it is a blessing distinct from justification; that it is attainable in this life; that it is obtained by faith; that it may be received at any time—that is, *now*; that it is desirable; that it is necessary to constitute them effective workers in Christ's vineyard, and to secure them admittance to the heaven of God; that it is their solemn duty to attain to its experience, and yet they go on from year to year professed seekers, but not possessors of the great salvation.

They have experiences more or less clear as to justification by faith,—are often happy in the Saviour's love, are either constantly or spasmodically active in the Master's service, take up many a cross, and are often conspicuously useful,—but still that frequently acknowledged defect leaves a shadow over their Christian experiences, minishes their joys, cripples their usefulness, and is continually forcing out the sigh of regret where words of spontaneous praise and adoration should be heard. All will readily admit that those whose Christian experience tallies with the above description, form not the minority in our Church, but are to be counted by thousands. This field is large, and is "white unto the harvest," but needs more laborers sent forth by the "Lord of the harvest." Should all who comprise this class obtain the blessing of full Redemption, what a fresh power would be given to the Church! How she would thrill from centre to circumference with a sense of new life and vigor! What an impetus would be given to all the operations of the Church, both at home and abroad! If, we say, all who are inquiring the way to the possession of the blessing of holiness should find, and thus the vast majority of our members, having consecrated themselves without reserve to their Master, and rejoicing in conscious acceptance, no longer professed seekers but witnesses to the power of Jesus' blood to cleanse from all sin, should ever stand before the Lord with the question, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" what bounds could be set to the possibilities of our Church in spreading Scriptural holiness throughout the world? This field, then, is of vast importance, and the results of its proper culture must be incalculably glorious. It is our sincere hope that "EARNEST CHRISTIANITY" will become the banner pamphlet to all who put forth special efforts in this and kindred fields; that it will materially help to organize the scattered bands of those who have definite experiences on the subject of Christian perfection; that it will become a rallying point for the various nuclei that profess this blessing.

But to be that power there must be no uncertain sound on this subject. To be ambitious simply to preserve valuable obituaries is to court failure. To be the depository of essays on various religious topics, however good they may be, still if they constitute the chief feature of each number, is to fail of its special mission. But if the subject of holiness breathes from every page; if it