

Christian principles. Place them with Lot in Sodom, you cannot Sodomize them. Their patriotism and their principles are not in the market. Courteous and obliging, they take kindly to you; their hearts go out for you, willing to yield everything but conscience. A church composed of such members, sound in doctrine and pure in life, has in it the elements of a healthy, vigorous growth, and cannot fail to stamp its impress upon the ages.—*Christian at Work.*

*EPIPHANY.*

It belongs to the calling of a Church of Christ to preach the Gospel, not only in Christendom, but to all mankind, for the purpose of leading men to their Saviour.—*Old Motto Spirit of Missions.*

This old motto strikes the keynote of the season. Well-nigh nineteen centuries have rolled into the past since the wise men brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and laid them at the feet of Him who has just risen as the "Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings." Now, as then, there are thousands upon thousands, nay, millions upon millions, of human beings who, in the figurative language of Holy Scripture, are "sitting in darkness and the shadow of death," And yet "GOD so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that the world through Him might be saved,"

Without an audible question being asked why this is so, the answer comes to mind; This is because of man's fault. GOD has blessed us abundantly, not only in that visible success which has come in answer to the prayers and labors of the givers and workers of a generation, but also in that He has brought be-

fore us enlarged opportunities for Christian work with such plain indications that there is no difficulty in "assuredly gathering that the Lord has called us for to preach the Gospel unto them" also. Thus, as when the Apostle wrote, He permits us to be "ambassadors for Christ, and workers together with Him."

*CHRISTIANS' LIGHT-BEARERS.*

MIGHT not all who profess and call themselves Christians ask if their lives had been like lights set upon a hill; if the world could see that religion purified their hearts and regulated their conduct; if they avoided temptation and sin and sought after holiness? If, upon examination, they found themselves careless and indifferent; if love was cold, if not dead, in their hearts; if they threw off the restraints of religion and of the Church, could they wonder at the want of interest of their friends and neighbors? If the green tree bore such fruit, what could be expected of the dry; if GOD was not served in Israel, would it be surprising if He was blasphemed in Edom? Could there be any hope that for such an example and such influence they would not be held responsible? As a man soweth, so shall he reap, Evil communications corrupt good manners; it is a law of nature and reason as well as of GOD.

*AGGRESSIVE RELIGION.*

"True religion is essentially aggressive." It would, fain "compel" all to come into GOD's house. It "earnestly contends for the faith." It abhors indifferentism,