

the work of the Church at large. This, too, in face of the claim which the teaching and example of their Lord so powerfully enforces on His every follower, that namely of entire consecration to His service,—that, in other words, of a life of self-denial, and even of sacrifice, in the interests of His Kingdom. Few, alas! are the sacrifices which the most active and useful amongst us make in prosecuting the work of the Church! Few are they who, in imitation of their Lord, suffer themselves to be eaten up by the zeal of His house! I pray God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that by the grace of His Holy Spirit, you may be made more willing to work and more earnest and self-denying in working, for the prosperity and enlargement of the Church, and for the extension of the knowledge and glory of Christ throughout the world. “I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service.” I beseech you glorify God in your spirits also, which are God’s. This life of holy zeal, of active service, of love for souls, of consecration to the interests of Christ’s Kingdom—this is that “higher life” to the which, in the name of our Divine Master, I earnestly and affectionately summon you.

A glorious destiny opens before the Presbyterian Church in Canada, if our Ministers, our Elders, and our Communicants, one and all, be but faithful to their ordination and sacramental vows. We have an evangelical creed. Our ecclesiastical polity has come down to us from the apostolic age. We have an educated ministry. We have numbers, intelligence, and wealth. We have a frame-work and appliances which, if wisely adapted, must, by the blessing of God upon our endeavours, lead to the consolidation in Canada of a Church which, in magnitude, in completeness, and in saving influences shall vie with the most venerable and prosperous Churches of the Old World. An almost boundless Home Missionary field opens out before us; the “Great West,” is rapidly becoming peopled,—an embryo empire,—and the opportunity which offers of laying its ecclesiastical foundations simultaneously with its political, is a call to us from the Head of the Church, thus early to take possession of the land in His name.

Then, we have in the eastern portions of the Dominion, a large and interesting department of Home Missionary work: More than a million of French-Canadian Roman Catholics are at our doors, are accessible to our evangelistic efforts. Many of them, indeed, are anxious to cast off the yoke which holds them down in ignorance and superstition; and are groaning to be set free, dimly hoping that deliverance will reach them through the Bible which we open to them, and through the Gospel which we preach. Our identification, as a Church, with the great Foreign Missionary work of the nineteenth century, and the success with which our missionaries have carried on their labours in their respective fields, should stimulate to more earnest prayers, to enlarged effort, and to greater liberality. Our stability and growth as a Church will largely depend on the faithful cultivation of the missionary spirit. All history goes to show that the most successful churches at home, are those which set themselves to carry out the great commission—“Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.” Not otherwise can we claim the fulfilment of the promise, “Lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”

Chiefest of all, I entreat you, brethren in the Lord, to remember that all that we attempt to construct and to do within the Church,—that our ministries, our offices, our forms, our schemes of benevolence, our services, our very prayers are nothing, without the abiding presence in the midst of us of the Holy Spirit. Only by His grace can the Church succeed in her great mission; only by His power can the preaching of the Word be mighty to convince and to convert sinners, and to strengthen and purify believers. For His descent upon us in the fulness of His quickening and sanctifying energy let us therefore earnestly and constantly pray.

“The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.”

In name of the General Assembly,

JOHN JENKINS, D. D.,

Montreal, Dec. 26, 1878.

*Moderator.*