

EVANGELISTS AND THEIR WORK.

BY REV. H. JOHNSTON, M.A.



URING the past few weeks Dr. Palmer, of New York, and his consecrated wife, have been laboring in the Churches of Toronto. They commenced in Queen Street Church, and labored successively in Yorkville, Metropolitan, and Berkeley Street Churches, and it pleased God our Saviour to crown their labors with remarkable success. Scores of precious souls have been awakened and converted, backsliders have been reclaimed, and many of God's dear children have entered into the enjoyment of *full salvation*. The Church has been led into a new and higher experience as the result of a fresh consecration to the work of soul-saving, and the congregations of the city have felt largely the gracious influences from above. The expositions of Scripture by the Doctor are clear, forcible, and helpful; and the addresses of Mrs. Palmer are very interesting and valuable. As one listens to her, the thought that it is a woman who is speaking, soon gives place to the solemn impression that it is God's truth that is being spoken, and is forcing its burning way to the heart. In the prayer-meetings they are peculiarly at home, and are wonderfully successful in leading inquiring souls at once to the Saviour. These devoted servants of the Lord have consecrated their time, talents, and energies to the work of spreading "Scriptural holiness over the land."

We would be very far from ascribing all the good accomplished, under God, by these special efforts to the instrumentality of these "helpers;" but the great success with which God has honored these and other laborers in this department of Christian work, prompt the inquiry *whether the Churches of this day have not overlooked a branch of service and a class of workers that were certainly included in the constitution of the Church of Apostolic days?*

In our modern phraseology the term *Evangelists* is applied almost exclusively to the writers of the four Gospels; but in the New Testament the term is applied to a class of Christian laborers who were not settled over any particular Churches, but went forth preaching the Gospel in aid of one or other of the Apostles, or under the direction of the Holy Ghost. In the Epistle to the Ephesians, we read that when the Redeemer "ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men; and he gave some Apostles, and some Prophets, and some Evangelists, and some Pastors and Teachers."

Standing at the head of these officers are the "*Apostles*," who are to be regarded as the special delegates and representatives of Christ.

Next to these in authority and gifts are the "*Prophets*," who spake under the immediate impulse of the Holy Spirit, and whose words were mighty to reach the hearts and consciences of men.

Another office furnished *instruction and pastoral care*—"Pastors and Teachers." The "*Pastors*" who watched over local Churches, and "*Teachers*" who carried on the work of systematic instruction.