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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."—Psalm 137, 4-5.

At this season of the year, the thoughtful and serious look back upon the past for the wise purpose of learning from its failures to turn to better account present opportunities.

May we not as a Church be greatly profited by earnest reflection upon the past, by an honest attempt to discover in what we have been remiss and how we can avoid the errors of the years that have fled. This is a wide, vast, and solemn theme, and in this brief item cannot be more than touched upon.

As a Church, have we not failed in widely realizing our dependence upon, and in manifesting our gratitude and affection to, and trust in, Him who gave himself a voluntary offering for the heirs of his kingdom? As branches of the vine have we not too often lived as if our existence were a separate one? How little of the self-denying and Cross-bearing spirit has been exhibited in our conduct. We profess to obey Him who bought us with His own blood, yet what have we done to aid on the glorious work of human redemption for which He died.

We can witness for Him by a life of purity and devotion to his work, by a willingness to spend and be spent in His service. All are not called upon to go forth to be preachers and teachers; yet the life of each believer ought to teach and preach more powerfully than the most eloquent words. In our houses, in our sphere however humble, we can witness for Christ.

We can give liberally of our means or rather employ in God's service the goods He has bestowed upon us. There is nothing here to which we have an absolute right. The world's treasures are put in our charge. Our right over them is that of a steward. To God we are accountable for the use we make of them. To withhold from Him, to waste upon ourselves, to make an entirely selfish use of temporal gifts, is to pervert the mercies of God and incur thus His displeasure. The gold, the silver, the cattle upon a thousand hills are His. He has a perfect right to our whole service, to whatever we own. He requires us to consecrate ourselves, our means, to his service. He can do His work without us. He will do it. But