

fatal defects of modern Christian life. *We often go the rounds of duty without any definite object before us.* The worshipper too frequently approaches the throne of grace without any end whatever, but merely to *say his prayers.* Parents and heads of families, collect their children and servants for religious exercises, *because it is their custom.* Sabbath-school teachers go to their classes with no fixed design before them, which, from their hearts, they wish to accomplish. In like manner, ministers of the gospel appear before their people without any clear, distinct aim; all they want to do is *just to preach a sermon.* Now it is to be feared there are few of us whose consciences do not plead guilty to much short-coming in this particular direction. We are not like the apostle; we are like the racer and boxer of ancient Greece practising with a view to the "games,"—we "run as uncertainly"—we "fight as those who beat the air." And not until the race may be won by such running, or the victory achieved by such fighting shall we attain the objects which we ought to keep constantly in view.

With this want of a decided end, bustling activity is perfectly consistent. Those who run uncertainly, by way of preparation for trial, may have run as swiftly as when afterwards engaged in the actual struggle—those who beat the air, may have been as violent in their gesture as when confronted with the stoutest antagonist; and yet, in both instances, there could have been no approximation either to defeat or victory. So in our case: it is astonishing what noise and bustle one can make by apparent zeal and activity, while no object is gained, and simply because none is distinctly sought.

Christian fathers and mothers, you can not afford to be thus busily engaged in doing nothing. You are placed in a most solemn and responsible situation. God has entrusted to your care immortal souls that must be either saved or lost. Their destinies are largely in your keeping. Should any one of them *perish* through your neglect or misconception of duty, great guilt will lie at your door. Let a sense, therefore, of your awful responsibility, induce you to aim at the conversion of your children. Never lose sight of this all important object. Labour and pray continually for its attainment; and

thus your efforts, instead of being scattered, and therefore weakened, by being directed to a multiplicity of ends, or to no end whatever, will be concentrated upon a single point and, therefore, infinitely strengthened.

Sabbath-school teachers, you also are called to occupy a most important position; and in you it is equally unpardonable to lounge through your duties without attempting anything definite or decisive. When, therefore, you are again surrounded by your scholars let each ask himself such questions as the following—"What has brought me here, and what am I to do? Am I to try to spend half an hour in *enterprising* my class and then endeavour to persuade myself that I have been well employed? Or is it my object to earn a reputation for piety and zeal among my brethren and friends? Or shall I place before me as my grand design, to show my extensive knowledge of scripture, and the ease and fluency with which I can speak about its facts and doctrines? Or rather, is it not my duty to think of the great needs of the young immortals around me, of the opportunity which God is now giving me of doing good, and of the means by which the understandings and the hearts of the children may be most easily enlightened and impressed?"

Set your minds at rest with regard to such things as these. Fix your thoughts upon the end which your consciences tell you you ought to aim at; keep that end full in view, both in the study and in the class; and, by the promised blessing of God, you will soon be surprised at the effects of your exertions.

To ministers of the gospel, the preceding remarks apply with tenfold force; and we trust they too will "suffer the word of exhortation." Why is it that the preaching of the Cross is not attended with greater results? There may be many reasons; but is not this one of them,—We have been too greatly accustomed to run as uncertainly, and to fight as those that beat the air? Let us try to remedy the evil. Let us propose to ourselves more clearly, as our great object, the conversion of our hearers, and travail, as in birth, until Christ be formed in their hearts. And for the attainment of this end let us preach, *not over the heads* of the people, but *to* them. Let us try to set forth with greater

plainness, affection and solemnity the truths of the everlasting gospel. And in all our labours in the pulpit, and intercourse with our hearers, let us aim at the *one object—the salvation of ourselves and of them.*

EDITORIAL NOTES.

"THE CANADIAN MISSIONARY LINK" is now an established fact. The lady Editors have just issued their first number, and it does them credit. That the little sheet is wanted, is sufficiently manifest when already orders for some 1100 copies have been sent in to the managers.

"EARLY MEMORIES."—These sketches by our venerable brother "Luther" have been missed of late from our columns. We regret that poor health has been the lot of the writer; but hope that he may soon again be able to resume a task which has afforded so much pleasure to many of our readers.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS.—The following Association Minutes have been kindly sent us: *Nova Scotia*—Eastern, Western and Central; *New Brunswick*—Western; *O. tario*—Toronto, Central Canada, Grand River. The donors will please accept our thanks.

OTTAWA BAPTIST TABERNACLE.—This fine church-edifice will be publicly dedicated to Divine worship on Lord's day the 29th inst. Dr. Castle of Toronto is to preach morning and evening, and Dr. Stewart of Hamilton in the afternoon. There will be a grand tea-meeting on the Monday evening; and the three following days will be occupied by the meetings of the Eastern Convention.

S. S. LIBRARIANS' ASSOCIATION.—The favourable attention of Sunday School workers generally, and Librarians particularly, is invited to the communication in another column on this important subject. We shall be exceedingly pleased if the letter of F. W. W. should be the means of securing the formation of such an Association as that proposed. The project has our hearty endorsement.

REV. A. WARREN.—It was with very great sorrow we learned a few weeks ago,