

THE CANADIAN DAY-STAR.

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“ I am the light of the world.”
“ Preach the Gospel to every creature.”—JESUS.

JUNE, 1862.

ACTION AND MOTIVES TO ACTION.

Man is under obligation to perform certain actions. God has endowed him with active power—the power of will. By his arrangement all the faculties and sensibilities of the mind, are so co-related to the will, as to be either directly or indirectly under its control. It is not however a necessity that we perform right actions, nor that we perform wrong actions. We may act rightly, or we may act wrongly. But, as we are moral agents, *we must act.*

The duty of man may be summed up in *love*. “ Love is the fulfilling of the law.” We should love God, we should love the members of our families, we should love God’s people, we should love our country, we should love the souls of men. All the particular duties, which spring out of the various relations, which we sustain to God, to our families, to God’s Church, to our country, to the souls of men—to men as immortal, are the phenomena of love—the outworking of the principle of love.

Though we must act wrongly or rightly, and ought to act rightly, it is not required of us to present our actions to God as the price of our acceptance with him. One wrong act renders it ever after impossible for us to enjoy God’s favour on the ground of our own righteousness; because the law of God, which is to us the standard of right action, requires a perfect obedience. Besides, “ he that offendeth in one point is guilty of all”—violates the grand principle which underlies every precept of the Divine law—the principle of love. Thus present obedience, even did we render it completely, could not atone for past transgression. But, blessed be God! we do not need to act in obedience to the moral law, with the view of securing our salvation. In ineffable love to man,