

trary. Lepers, demoniacs, publicans, outcast women, persons outside the pale of human aid and ordinary sympathy, heard his voice and responded to his invitation: "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest!"—To the "woman of Samaria" he preached one of his most precious and wonderful sermons. Surely then the church is not at liberty to pass by any class of the population whatever their moral or material condition. The Master has taught us to love all, to help all, to sacrifice ourselves for the advantage of all. Christian, follow the example of thy Lord: Seek out the straying and the lost, and tell them of the good Shepherd, and bring them to his fold. Go to your neighbour who neglects the means of grace, and tell him of his danger and of the Saviour's love. No matter whether that neighbour be rich or poor, his soul is precious; you are his brother; you have a deep interest in his everlasting welfare.—Speak to that poor beggar as Christ would have spoken were he in your place. Speak to that rich one and tell him as Christ told another in the same circumstances, "One thing thou lackest." It matters little whether your neighbour be nominally a Presbyterian or Episcopalian, a Baptist or a Romanist. He is your neighbour; as such you love him as you love yourself, and you will do all you can to secure his everlasting salvation. Christian, remember that you cannot delegate all this work to your minister or to the elders. Every one is bound by motives of infinite power to help his brother man on the way to heaven.—The shepherds whose rapt ears caught the angelic song at Bethlehem, after adoring the infant Saviour, proclaimed to their neighbours the wonders they had seen and heard. Anna, the good old widow who had waited long and lovingly for the consolation of Israel, spoke of Jesus to all of like mind in Jerusalem. The church secured her noblest triumphs both in the olden and in recent times when all her members were imbued with the loving and self-sacrificing spirit of Jesus, and were willing to be in the best sense his missionaries to all within their reach. Let us seek

to be baptized with the Spirit of Jesus.—The work has to be done; God has commissioned us to do it. Mighty spiritual forces are on our side—powers from heaven to raise from the deepest degradation—to convert and sanctify and save.

The church has most precious opportunities for saving the outcast through our Home Missionaries, who go from home to home, and from place to place, where Christ has few, if any, to hold up the standard of his gospel. It is the aim of our Home Mission to overtake these "desolations," and lead the wanderers in the moral wilderness into the way of life. But, alas how sadly inadequate our means to the pressing demands of the work! Tenfold the present number of labourers could be engaged; tenfold the resources at our command could be economically used. O that God would give us grace as a church and as individuals to live and labour for him!

THE ORDINANCE OF PRAISE.

No. II.

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In proceeding to notice the ordinance of praise, as it existed under the Jewish dispensation, we shall endeavor to ascertain the facts on the subject without reference to questions of modern controversy. We do not think it necessary to look at the matter in this view, as we do not consider that the regulation regarding an outward ordinance under one dispensation are a rule under another. The spirit of religion is the same in all ages. The great principles of truth and duty, underlying the religious institutions appointed by God, are the same under each economy, and from their nature are unchangeable. But the outward ordinances by which truth and duty are taught and religious feeling expressed, vary with each change in God's dispensation; and for the knowledge of God's will regarding any institution at any time, we must look to the regulations, which he has laid down regarding that particular dispensation.

In this respect we consider praise in the same position as other institutions. Prayer for example, as its substance and spirit, is