

distinction has been unwisely exaggerated far beyond New Testament limits. It is not the rights of the laity that have been overlooked, however, so much as their duty and responsibility. The New Testament idea is that the laity—the whole body of disciples—are to evangelize the world by witnessing for Christ; but the modern idea seems to be that the chief duty of the laity is to support and care for the clergy, and leave to them the work of preaching the Gospel. Let us all try to get back to the New Testament point of view.

WITNESS-BEARING is the simplest form of evangelistic work, and yet it is the most potent. Moreover it is the only form in which all Christians, irrespective of age, sex, gifts, or acquirements, can engage. To teach and edify the Church requires knowledge, experience, and the teaching faculty; to defend the faith requires education, mental training, and polemic skill; but to bear witness requires only a knowledge of the facts. Even a child can be a witness. The argument is very simple. It requires a very small measure of capacity to sin; but whoever can sin can be saved, and whoever can be saved can tell of salvation. And this is the Divine plan touching the evangelization of the world, that all who have heard and received the good news are to bear testimony, and all who are unsaved are to hear that testimony. How many are thus bearing witness to-day?

#### CHINA—ARRIVAL OF THE MISSIONARIES—DEATH OF MRS. DR. KILBORN.

LETTERS received about the middle of July conveyed the gratifying intelligence that the Mission Party had reached their destination in safety. The following is Dr. Hart's letter:—

“CHENTU, CHINA, MAY 24TH, 1892.

“DEAR DR. SUTHERLAND,—We arrived here Saturday night, the 21st, at 6 p.m. Were 65 days from Ichang, a reasonable trip, the Chinaman would say. All in good health. The party, except myself, went immediately into the city. A vast concourse of people assembled at the landing and gave them an enthusiastic greeting. This is an event in the history of this city. No foreign-dressed lady ever entered the city before Saturday last. It is a departure, but one that will give dignity to our work. At this writing, the brethren are busy getting settled. The District Magistrate just sent his card with a request for passport. The first work for the brethren is the language. I shall be busy hunting up a suitable home and putting it into livable shape. Dr. Stevenson visited an opium patient yesterday—a woman who had taken an overdose—suicide I presume; case saved. I am in my own room fairly well settled. This is the 24th, and the brethren and sisters have been singing ‘God save the Queen,’ etc.

“The weather up to date cool and dry for this climate. This is a great city, and the province greater. This is surely the best portion of the Empire. My second visit only enhances my first high impression of its importance.

My last news from Mrs. Hart is favorable; she was feeling some better, and beginning to get about. It was a Providence she did not undertake the journey from Shanghai with the rest of us.

“We are all happy and pleased with the Outlook.

“Yours in the Gospel,

“V. C. HART.”

The same mail brought a post card from Dr. Kilborn, written in a joyful, thankful spirit. The whole party were in good health, and looking forward with eager hope to their work. But scarcely had the letters reached Toronto when the telegraph brought the mournful tidings that Mrs. Dr. Kilborn had died of cholera. How terrible the stroke must have been to our bereaved brother in that distant heathen land, he alone can tell; but little less terrible must it have been to Mrs. Kilborn's parents in their Canadian home. To all who have suffered by this bereavement we extend our earnest sympathies, and ask the prayers of the whole Church in their behalf.

#### THE ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, CALAMITY.

OUR readers are already aware, through the reports in the public press, of the terrible calamity that has befallen St. John's in the destruction of a large part of the city by fire. The Rev. James Dove wrote by post card, under date of July 9th, as follows:

A sad calamity has overtaken St. John's. A fire yesterday, with a gale of wind, swept half the city. The finest buildings are burnt—English Cathedral, Methodist College and Home, Gower Street Church and Parsonage, Congregational Church, Presbyterian Church, one Bank and every public hall. Bro. Cowperthwaite is burned out, and four other of our ministers have lost their all. On the west side of the city, about 3 miles away, forest fires are raging and threaten to come down on the other part of the city. It is a terrible blow, worse than the fire of 1846. It originated in a stable about 4.30 p.m. yesterday. Loss, estimated roughly last night, about \$10,000,000. JAS. DOVE.

The Committee of Finance was in session in Toronto on the 12th of July, but at that time no particulars had been received. Under instructions the General Secretary wired Bro. Dove as follows:—

“Committee of Finance extends earnest sympathy. Will strive to further schemes of aid through congregations or otherwise. “A. SUTHERLAND.”

On July 21st, another note from Bro. Dove reached the Mission Rooms, from which we make an extract:

“Some of our missionaries that had come into the city to avail themselves of the first opportunity to get to their new stations, have lost their all, and have nothing left but what they stand in. Bros. Patterson, Durrant, Follett, Hull, have lost all by the fire in St. John's, and Bro. Browning has lost his all by forest fire in the circuit he was just removing from. He has lost about \$1,500; and besides this Bros. Cowperthwaite, Story and Reay, have had their homes destroyed in the city. There are no plans arranged yet, as caring for the homeless is the first necessity.”