

# NEWFOUNDLAND

# Monthly Messenger.

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## THE WANTS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

(Continued.)

### No. 2 — A LIVING MINISTRY.

I do not say that there are not many faithful, earnest men of God in the ranks of the Christian ministry in the different branches of the Church of Christ in this colony. Thank God there are. These will be the first to agree with me that one of the great wants of our country, in common with others, is a *revived ministry*. There are many things that tend to distract the mind, and damp the zeal, and quench the fire of love. Some have too much to do with finance. Others have had to handle the dangerous weapons of controversy, or have been dragged into the filthy waters of politics. Others may have evinced too much denominational activity, and failed to wish "God-speed" to all who preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ministers are but men. They need all the help possible from the Lord's people. In this country they are often in trying circumstances. They occupy the outposts of the great army of the Lord; often isolated, the year rolls round without their meeting one fellow labourer. If we consider how much depends upon their faithfulness, we may be roused to use the means to secure and maintain a living ministry. The hope of our country to-day lies in a strengthened and quickened ministry, in God's word being preached in demonstration of the Spirit and power. The Church of Christ is the salt of the land, and ministers are the salt of the Church. With them rests the power to raise our morality to a higher level than it has yet reached, and to give spiritual things a commanding position. If they are true to their present opportunities, future generations will bear the impress of their work, as the generation of to-day bears many a mark of the influence of holy men who have long slept in the dust.

The ministry may secure the perpetual renewal of its youth by living fellowship with Him who has all power in heaven and earth. Faded hopes, which spring as much from youthful ardour or worldly ambition, as from Godly zeal, may be supplanted by hopes which make not ashamed, because grounded on the sure promises of God. Strength which has been worn out and wasted in the conflict with sin and the devil, may be renewed by the Holy Ghost dwelling in the heart.

We have only to follow Christ, to depend upon the mighty agency of the Divine Spirit. We go not to

fight in our armour or strength, but in the strength of the Lord God.

Do we not recognise the need of a revived ministry for Newfoundland? Souls are perishing for lack of knowledge. Cold formalism takes the place of godliness, and covetousness which is idolatrous, is enslaving for ever multitudes around us, while vice and wickedness sweep over the land like a desolating storm.

Nothing but a ministry inspired by the Holy Ghost will be able to do the work of the Lord in this land.

May God uplift and qualify His servants.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Apostacy begins at the closet door.

If we cannot go to God *with* a broken heart, let us go to Him *for* one.

How pleasant it is to have the bird in the bosom sing sweetly.

"No mist that man may raise shall hide the eye of Heaven."

Never trouble yourself with trouble, till trouble troubles you.

Blame not before thou hast examined the truth; understand first, and then rebuke.

Observe the opportunity, and refrain not to speak when there is occasion to do good.

There really is a life of blessed power and joyfulness for all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Search and see what redemption means, what saving to the uttermost means, what the promises mean.

We sacrifice to dress till household joys and comforts cease. Dress drains our cellar dry, and keeps our larder lean.—*Cowper*.

POLITENESS.—Somebody says that politeness is like an air cushion: there may be nothing in it, but it eases our jolts wonderfully.

Though the world is very dumsighted as to its vision of Christ's personal glory and beauty, yet it is very clear-sighted as to how much of His holy image it sees in us.

O, the sublimity of fervent prayer! How it dignifies those who are continually found in it! It is indeed a wondrous grace, teaching us to address God in His own way. What I say He dictates! My words of prayer, though polluted by the breath I breathe, still, blessed be His name, go up an unpolluted sacrifice presented by Christ. I put my prayers into my Redeemer's hand; He pardons and purifies what is mine, takes them spotless to His Father's throne, and they are answered by innumerable blessings.