

INDIVIDUAL INFLUENCE IN CONVERSION.

The Christian spirit is essentially a missionary spirit—so much so that it is probable that the disciples who became apostles were elected to that office chiefly because they were pre-eminent in this respect. There is no greater mistake than to suppose that, "the twelve" were arbitrarily chosen and called to be "apostles" from the beginning. They were first called, as we and all others are, to be the disciples of Christ, in the sense of accepting him as Lord and Master. Afterwards, as they evinced their peculiar and personal fitness, they were promoted to the "apostleship."

Some Christians seem to think that it is the exclusive business of ministers to seek for souls, but it is not so. When Andrew sought his brother Simon, and Philip his brother Nathaniel, neither of them was an apostle, nor so much as a deacon in the Church. The apostolic office had not been instituted. Jesus himself had just begun to preach that men should repent, for the kingdom of God was at hand. These brothers were among the first who heard him preach; and no sooner had they left their nets to follow him, than they became "fishers of men," drawing them to Jesus. And so should his disciples do to-day. They should regard this as their principal business, their highest duty—to bring others to the Messiah, to a knowledge of his salvation. To this high calling all others should be made subordinate; for the duty of thus serving our Lord is superior to all other duties.

When this becomes the common conviction of Christians, *we* "shall see greater things" than have been seen yet in the Church; for then will many a little congregation become a thousand," and many a small church "a strong nation," "until they shall no longer teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all shall know him from the least to the greatest."—*Christian Times*.

It is not enough to learn that which is good, but we must continue in it unto the end.

[For "The Good News."

REMEMBER THOU MUST DIE !

The seasons, as they run their round,
Now mantling green, now white the ground,
Proclaim to each in whispering sound,
Remember thou must die !

The falling leaf, the fading flower,
Forewarn us of that solemn hour,
Tossed by the winds, they say with power,
Remember thou must die !

The mouldering tower, the ruined wall,
That totters verging to its fall,
With reason's voice doth loudly call,
Remember thou must die !

The moths, which live but for a day,
And then for ever are away,
Say, by their short allotted stay,
Remember thou must die !

All things of time point to our doom,
A setting world, or fading bloom;
But powerfully speaks the silent tomb,
Remember thou must die !

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NEARNESS TO ETERNITY.

Eternity is just at hand;
And shall I waste my ebbing sand,
And careless view departing day,
And throw my inch of time away ?

Eternity without a bound,
To guilty souls a dreadful sound !
But O if Christ and heaven be mine,
How sweet the accents ! how divine !

Be this my chief, my only care,
My high pursuit, my ardent prayer,
An interest in the Saviour's blood,
My pardon sealed, and peace with God.

But should my highest hopes be vain,
The rising doubt, how sharp the pain !
My fears, O gracious God remove,
Confirm my title to thy love.

Search, Lord, O search my inmost heart,
And light, and hope, and joy impart;
From guilt and error set me free,
And guide me safe to heaven and thee.

How TO GET GOOD FROM SERMONS.—
Pray for a soft heart and a retentive memory; and often speak together of the sermons you hear, and get them harrowed into your hearts, that Satan may be cheated, and your soul saved.—*M. Cheque*.