

### WORK ENOUGH FOR ALL.

The apostle Paul speaks of the christian church as a "body" of which each christian is a "member," and every member has a specific office to discharge. The Lord intends that there should be willing and cheerful co-operation among His people, just as there is a ready helpfulness among the varied members of the human body.—The hands cannot delegate their work to the feet; nor the feet devolve their burdens on the hands. If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? God has fitly joined together all the members and organs of our physical frame; there is no schism, no jealousy, no strife in the body; and from this the Lord intends us to learn the lesson of unity and co-operation in the "Body of Christ."

To leave the work of the Church to ministers, however talented and pious, is to commit a blunder and a crime. The work is so immense that they can never overtake it. It is this policy of handing over religious work to ecclesiastics that has left room for the terrific developments of heathenism, infidelity, and superstition, in nominally christian lands. It is thus that London and New York have been brought so low in the scale of christianity, that one half of their population are either infidels or nothingarians. England, with its established Church munificently endowed, with the princely revenues of the bishops, with the social advantages of the clergy, has within its bounds millions of "home heathen." And Scotland, too, has its heathenism, though not so deeply sunken or so widespread. So has America at large. So, coming nearer home, have Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. Coming closer still, we believe that there is not a county or a parish in all these provinces which is thoroughly christianized; while, in very many of them, the prevailing element is anti-christian or non-christian.

How is this heathenism to be accounted for in this nineteenth century of the christian era? The chief blame must be laid down here, at the door of official religionism. Christians forget their individual high calling, and leave Church officials to do the

work that should call for the energies of all. Had the apostolic system been faithfully followed out from that day till now, it were impossible that the greater part of the world should now be under the grim shadows of actual heathenism, while christian countries number millions of inhabitants who scorn the name of Christ, or bear that most precious name only to disgrace it.

To overcome the accumulated difficulties that lie in the Church's path, to overtake her work in all its overwhelming magnitude, we must return to the good old apostolic way. Every christian must learn to feel that the greatest responsibility rests upon him for the conversion of the whole world, that there is no room for drones in Christ's hive,—that we belong to Christ's "sacramental host," every one of us, bound by ties the most solemn, to fight his battles and plant his banner in the high places of the field.

"Laymen," as well as clergymen, are God's workmen. "Let him that heareth say, Come." There is no monopoly in the Church. The gifts which God confers, however limited or humble, are to be exercised for His glory and the good of souls. As there were no idlers when the walls of Jerusalem were to be built, so must there be none in preparing living stones for the New Jerusalem.

Women as well as men have their "mission" to discharge in Christian work. The "nuns" and "sisters" of the anti-christian Church of Rome set an example of willing activity and self-devotion, which might well rebuke the ease-loving votaries of a purer faith.

Happily there are many channels open at the present day for useful effort, and one or other will be found adapted to every capacity. There are agencies connected directly with our Churches that require much energetic working. There is the care of the poor and the sick; there is the collecting of funds; there is the regular attendance on, and support of, ordinances; there is the care of the Sabbath School, gathering children into it and teaching them, or learning with them, and visiting them at their homes. If all the Churches called forth all the resources and energies of all