

to discharge all the blessed duties, and to maintain all the gracious truths for which other denominations of Christians live. There is a heritage in common in which we all rejoice. We would fulfil our own share of the world's evangelization. Further, we have a history of our own of which we are not ashamed. Right nobly did our fathers, in Britain and America, maintain the principles of liberty and boldly resist the tyranny of despots. Freedom to worship God has not been bought without a hard battle. Of our share in the struggle no man can stop our boasting. Even in this Canada of ours, no unworthy part has been played by our denomination in securing the secularization of the clergy reserves, and the abolition of State grants for sectarian education. Apart from these considerations, which speak for themselves, we have deeper reasons for seeking a vigorous and extended growth in this country. We take it that the Scriptural nature of our system warrants our efforts to hold our ground and extend our borders. Certainly a faith in our polity ought to prevail among us. An emphatic and prominent recognition and assertion of our distinctive principles should be a part of our programme. Were we to judge by the actions and style of talking indulged in by some ministers and members of other denominations, one would suppose that we ought to make apologies for being in existence—a state of things for which the words and ways of some of our own men in the past have given too much place. If there are no great objects for which we exist, then let us by all means vacate the ground, and not be guilty of dividing the Church of Christ. If our ecclesiastical position can vary according to geographical lines, then does our existence become a matter of grave doubt; but as bound by the Word of God to maintain principles which we find there, and which, in our opinion, have only to be properly worked to give a fair expression to men of the true nature of Christianity, and to promote largely the diffusion of Christian ideas, we cannot retire from the field, or lower our flag, discouraged by changes on the part of any who have been formerly with us.

One effect of strong views of the Scriptural nature of our polity will be to secure the abiding loyalty of our ministry. It must be confessed that an element of great weakness to the cause is to be found in our being abandoned by men who have been prominently on our side. Our membership should also be educated to understand, and stand up for the liberty which they have in Christ Jesus. There are three great points to which we will advert in this connection, justifying our existence and our attempts at extension. We possess a goodly amount of freedom in forming and expressing theological opinions, which does not exist in some of the leading denominations—at any rate as expressed in their creeds and formulas, and as carried out by Church Courts and officials. Then we claim a capacity in our system, well adapted to a free country, to develop a high degree of Christian manhood—forming efficient workers in every department of aggressive work for Christ—and promoting a beneficial individualism, fitting for taking part in Church business and voting intelligently. Further, we think that Christ has decidedly guarded and preserved the fellowship of His people by putting it into their hands as a direct Christian duty to maintain purity of communion, and given them clear commands in their corporate capacity to exercise discipline on offending members—duties which, in our view, can only be Scripturally obeyed by the concurrent action of the body, assembled in the name of the Lord.

The second question bearing on the general position and prosperity of the Church is—HOW CAN WE DO OUR WORK WELL? Unreserved and entire consecration is required. We have a great work to do, so that we cannot retire from it. Soul-winning demands a wisdom only found by drinking into the Spirit of Jesus. An all-absorbing pursuit of the great interests of eternity is likely to meet with success. Let our lips be touched with the live coal from the altar; let our tongues become tongues of fire through the baptism of the Spirit; let our hearts throb with intense love for men; let our all be devoted to our Master and His cause, and wonders of grace will be seen, producing the cry—"What hath God wrought!"

Without for a moment losing sight of the paramount importance of the spiritual