

at the progress which has been made in the last hundred years, we might conclude that we were already within measurable distance of the glorious goal, when the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the seas; yet, when we look on the other side, and think of the magnitude of the work still to be done, the terrible might of the forces against us, the dismal lack of faith, and hope, and love, and devotion, on the part of many who are nominally with us, it becomes evident that, though victory is certain, it is certain only because "the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it"; and before it can be reached there must be a change, a mighty change; the Church of Christ must awake, and put on her strength, as she has never yet done; she must pray, as she has never prayed before, for the Lord to make bare His arm, His holy arm, in the eyes of all the nations, that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God. Prayer, I say—but still not prayer alone. It is true that the work is God's, and He alone can do it; but it has been His purpose from the beginning that it shall be done through human agency. It is the purpose of God that His people shall carry the light—be diffusers and transmitters of it. We pray the Lord that He make bare His arm. Yes, but what is His arm? Is not the Church His body? And if the Church is suffering from atrophy of the heart or palsy of the arm, how shall the work be done? The old watchword is as true as ever: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." But the Spirit must animate the body. The vital current of force must flow from Him "who is the head of the body, the church," into the heart, and out to the arm, which then, and not till then, will be "the arm of the Lord," and therefore mighty to extend His salvation to the ends of the earth.

First of all, it is needful that the heart should be right. There must be an increase of life and warmth and power at home if there is to be an increase in the power exerted abroad. We have come back, you observe, to the teaching implied in our text. In every way is borne in upon us the great law of the kingdom, that "if we would have more power in the arm, we must have more love in the heart"; if we would win upon those that are without, we must have more of the spirit of self-sacrificing devotion within. What most, and in the first place, is needed is more life and love and power at home.

Not that this can be got by any slackening of effort abroad. It is the glory of our Church that she has led the van in all missionary enterprise, until she has encircled the earth with her missions. But however far she has attained to a realization of her duties and responsibilities, there yet is much to be done, "there is much land to possess," not only in the foreign,

but also in domestic fields. There is much work to be done in our own hearts. There lies the secret. It is there that the work must begin of all intensification and increase. If our hearts were right with God, there would be no lack in the mission field. What lack there is is not due to the scarcity either of money or of men. We have abundance of both. What is wanted is an outpouring of the Spirit of God to consecrate the men, to consecrate the money we have.

It is foolishly imagined by some that the fewer men and less money we send to foreign lands, the more we can accomplish at our own doors. But all experience is eloquent with proof to the contrary. "If only the Church would awake and put on her strength, she might quadruple her foreign force and her foreign contributions, and at the same time increase tenfold her power at home. Is not one man endowed with power from on high far more influential than a thousand commonplace Christians content with the saving of their own individual souls? Suppose we could halve the numbers of Christian workers at home by sending the other half away to the far more needy fields abroad, and at the same time double the faith and love of all, does any one imagine that the work at home would suffer any loss? It would be an incalculable gain; for the doubled zeal of those that remain would not only accomplish more, but it would enkindle others, and before many months were gone the army of workers at home would be more numerous than ever." What is wanted is not men—the men we have—but a baptism for them of the Holy Ghost; and that baptism not merely by sprinkling, but by immersion, ay, and that a trine immersion. The needed thing is more devotion—more of the divine Master's spirit—more of the blood of His cross in the veins of His Church.

And the case stands the same with our money. We can find it in plenty for the gratification of our pride and ambition and pleasures. But for the glory of God and the extension of our dear Redeemer's kingdom, it is not to be had without the greatest difficulty. And this because by Christian men and Christian women, though they profess to believe in God, it is not sufficiently realized that His Word is necessary for their fellow-men, and that it is their duty to give them that Word. For the remedy of this we have need to be led—and may God in His mercy lead us!—to appreciate more and more fully the treasure of the blessings stored up for us and all the human race in "the Gospel of the glory of the blessed God," which is no bare set of rules or code of laws, or mere collection of wise and moral sayings, but a revelation from heaven of the infinite love of God in Christ, His Son incarnate for us, crucified for our offences, exalted a