

Method.

I have chosen for my little talk with you a theme which is as old as the creation of God, when He brought order out of chaos, and established the earth and its goings, set darkness and daylight in relative sequence, gave us the seasons and their results, the dew from heaven and the plentiful rains, refreshing the earth; and, until the dawn of that day when the angel of God shall stand with one foot upon the sea and the other upon the land, and with the trump of God pronounce that time shall be no longer, there shall follow in unbroken succession the conditions which give to man the ceaseless round of sowing and reaping, seedtime and harvest. All understand this; and in the morning we sow our seed, and in the evening withhold not our hand. With patient labor do we follow up, day by day, through the weeks and months necessary for the development desired, and then comes the merry gathering in of the increase which makes glad the heart of the husbandman.

God has set everything in proper order in the physical universe, and from the tiniest flower that buds and blossoms under the shadows of the everlasting rocks, to the gigantic oaks or pines that grow in our forests and serve their purposes, all are subject to positive method in every condition of their life.

The flowers and trees and roots, are as the prophets sent to us annually to affirm the future and cheer us on our way, encouraging our faith of life by death—decaying for the sake of better growth. And as the husbandman bargains with the year to give back a hundred grains for each one buried, so does God give us the everlasting assurance that when our precious seed is cast into the furrow of death its beauty has not gone out forever, but it shall be brought again to our eyes, a hundred-fold more beautiful than that ever painted. "Heaven harvests and keeps whatever of good the earth loses."

How strikingly beautiful, too, is the fact that life with these self propagators means not only the appropriation of all things around them for the continual growth and development of their own lives, but the constant giving off of the vital principle in various forms, so that even the breezes of heaven are harnessed into servitude and made the means of carrying these germs to places remote from the parent stem, and finding a lodgment in the earth, are multiplied a thousand times. Thus repro-

duction goes constantly on. The seed of the maple is given wings that it may fly quivering in the wind, and drops and grows in a spot where there is not, perhaps, another tree of its kind. The thistle-down carries within its embrace the very concentration of an evil principle, and soars in every direction with its tiny burden, finding at last a resting-place where it will shortly reappear, as capable of mischief as the parent which gave it birth.

Is it possible that the God-given principles of truth and righteousness are less prolific than the principles of evil?

We must be workers together with God. God is the model, the perfect methodical worker. We must work after His pattern, or there assuredly will be divergence or a clashing in our methods.

God has given to us a perfect Gospel, perfectly adapted to the wants of sinful men everywhere, and an abundance of material upon which to labor; but for the lack of method in our work and a painful lack of motive power, the work drags wearily and sometimes discouragingly along.

In every community there are a few earnest, zealous souls, willing and always able to bear the "burden and heat of the day," who, from week to week, and from year to year, go on uncomplainingly, doing the work that hundreds ought to have a hand in—yes, *two hands* in! but for want of proper organization is not equally divided. This can be and ought to be divided so as to fall with lighter weight upon the many.

Method is but another name for organization. Coleridge says: "What is organization but the connection of parts in and for a whole, so that each part is, at once, end and means?"

As a people we have, for more than half a century, been "going as you please," every man for himself—and the women? Well (here was nothing for them to do but to ask their husbands at home! And the question often asked in vain—"and what about those women and maidens who have no husbands?" is respectfully referred to the Sphinx). Every church for itself, every county for itself, every state for itself, the United States for itself, Canada for herself—and nothing for foreign heathen, civilized or uncivilized.

Within these last years we have learned "a more excellent way."

With the founding of the Christian Women's Board of Missions and its admirable organization, a new day dawned upon our brotherhood, and

the missionary spirit was abroad in the land. From that day to this, *organize* has been the watchword of our Christian women, and faithfully is it being taken up from State to State. There yet remains a vast amount of patient labor to be expended in thoroughly organizing our churches and auxiliaries, and enlisting all the women in active work, so that the mighty power of system may be felt in every thing we do in the cause of Christ.

I would like to see among us the most perfect organization in the world, even at the risk of being called *Methodists*!

This work must first begin with the individual. Too many Christians are disposed to feel that having allied themselves to Christ, and started to live a new life, henceforth their life-work is to save themselves, regardless of the claims of those around them. This selfishness must be eradicated, and the lesson taught that the surest, best and easiest way to save ourselves is to begin at once the work of saving others.

From the individual, the next step is to the congregation of individuals, which, being thoroughly organized, it becomes an easy task to organize auxiliary aids to the general work. All missionary work, like regular church work, is educational. Every society, as soon as organized, ought to begin at once the work of educating itself up to the highest degree of usefulness, and with a strong desire to add to its power by systematic exercise in reaching out after others. A perfect list of its membership should be kept, a correct account with every member, and the officers should see that they are doing their duty faithfully and well. There is nothing like system in this. Create a habit of giving of means in stated amounts, at regular interval, and by regular reminders where there is irregularity, a habit will be formed, which, in time, will rule the individual. We are largely the creatures of habit.

Let the parents begin early to inculcate this principle of giving to the children; and when they grow old they will not depart from it. There should be method even in this. Beginning with the individual life to train into methodical habits of working for the Lord, as in working for one's self, we soon will transform the family. The influence of correct teaching at home cannot be over estimated. We should talk much of missions; let them be familiar themes in the family circle. Its far reaching effects by individual contact will be seen in the revival of primitive energy and enthusiasm in the Lord's work.

The still small voice is a more potent factor in the conversion of the world than the thunders, the fire and the smoke of Sinai. I hail the advent of C. W. B. M., with its hundreds of auxiliaries all over the world, as the harbinger of greater and better things for the cause of God and humanity, for it has done more to infuse a missionary spirit in our churches, and inspire zeal in behalf of Home Missions than any other movement which has been undertaken by the Disciples of Christ.

Although so strongly in favor of method in our work, I by no means desire that we should merge into mere machines, having no higher incentive in our hearts than the possession of complicated machinery. Given the most perfect method, the most perfect machinery, and means of wealth, all would be unavailing to accomplish the work without the fervor of loving hearts and the blessing of God. Paul might plant and Apollos water but it is God that giveth the increase.

In view of all that Christ has done for us, ought we not with grateful hearts present our bodies a living sacrifice wholly and acceptable unto Him, which is our reasonable service? Let us try to realize more and more, day by day, that we are not our own, that we have been bought with a price, even with the precious blood of Christ, and that our time, our talents and our all, from Him received, to Him belong.

LOUISE LOOS CAMPBELL.

Detroit, Mich.

A Pleasing Theme.

Rev. Henry Helzinger, Neustadt, Ont. "It is a pleasure to me to write a few lines about your dyspepsia medicine, K. D. C., and if the English language was as easy to write as the German, I would like to say a good deal more. I used your medicine, and can say it is just what I wanted and needed. My sour stomach and heart-burn after eating, and that gas which came from the stomach, is gone, and I am able to take cold water again. Before I had to take the water hot on account of stomach trouble. I recommend K. D. C. to our people where I can and to everyone who knows what a weak stomach is."

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