

it has been established, and to improve the dung port, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and the gates thereof were consumed with fire. Then I went out to the gate of the fountain, and to the King's pool; but there was no place for the east that was under me to pass. Then went I up in the right by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned," chap. ii. 13—15.

Reformers contend it is very desirable to obtain accurate and comprehensive knowledge of the state of society in the district assigned to our labours, and of existing operations both there and in other parts. We shall thus discern more clearly where our efforts are chiefly wanted, and how they may be most appropriately employed: otherwise, we may fall into the common mistake, that the most destitute places should always be first supplied; whereas it will often be found highly expedient to imitate the invader, who seizes and garisons the strongholds and fortified towns, knowing that when these are secured the whole country is open to him. We must beware of partial views and impulses. A good cause may be greatly damaged by rashness. First impressions are not always the best. He who puts forth all his strength in a furious onslaught may be compelled to learn caution by defeat, and to admit that valour requires to be chastened by prudence. Even error and sin may be sometimes indirectly assailed with great success. A skilful attack on the weakest points may open the way to the citadel, and secure an easy conquest.

METHOD OF PROMOTING

There must be *universal employment*. All classes laboured in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. The priests set a noble example, and the people willingly followed. Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified and set up the doors of it." "Next unto him repaired Jaziel the son of Harhaiah, of the goldsmiths. Next unto him also repaired Hananiah the son of one of the goldsmiths, and they fortified Jerusalem unto the broad wall." "After him repaired Malchiah the goldsmith's son, unto the place of the Nethinims, and of the merchants, over against the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner. And between the going up of the corner unto the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants." Neh. iii. 1, 8, 31, 32. In the church of Christ a similar course must be adopted. Every believer can do some-