

Have I made the impression on readers of an unengaging, perhaps repellent, personality in Liddon? Then I must make haste to correct the impression. Canon Liddon was the sincerest, the most loyal, of Christians; he was the most earnest, the most evangelical, of preachers. He was this in essence and to the core of his being,—always under the form and expression of a churchman, a priest. Seeing a fine “dissenting chapel” once, in an environment of obscure dwellings, he said: “Only the love of Christ could have done that.” There spoke the affectionate heart of the Christian, out from under the garb of the priest. It is not so much the liberal human sympathy expressed in the remark, that should arrest our attention, as it is the sentiment of personal affection toward Christ. There are even tears, hidden, irrepressible tears, of pathos and of love in the words.

(To be concluded.)

II.—FEDERATION OF THE CHURCHES.

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BEFORE leaving the world, our Lord met the Eleven who represented the Church, and enjoined, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”; in the revised version, “to the whole creation” (Mark xvi:15). This command is binding on the whole Church, on every church, on every professing Christian, on me who write, and on you who read this paper. Each person is commanded to take steps to have the work executed. Christ “expects every man to do his duty”; to “build the part of the wall opposite his dwelling.”

Upwards of eighteen centuries have elapsed since the order was given, and the end contemplated; the preaching of the Gospel to every creature is yet far from being accomplished. In obeying the command, the early disciples began at Jerusalem, that is, their own home. So, it seems to me, that in spreading the Gospel we must begin with those close to us, with our own country. We all know that, in all our great cities, there are masses of people who are as ignorant of the Gospel and of common morality as the inhabitants of the Dark Continent of Africa. Not only so, but it is proven that in our villages, and on the outer skirts of our respectable country districts, there are hundreds with none to care for their souls, and, with the children, growing up as ignorant of God and Christ as savages. Now it is the business of all, and every one of us, to inquire how is the joyful sound to be carried to every one of this people.

Two agencies have been employed in all ages. One, the preaching with the reading of the Word; and the other, visitation from house to house and dealing with individuals. Let us look at the conduct of Him who has set us an example that we should follow His steps. It was His wont to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath; thus showing that we should have appointed times of worship, and that we should