

REPORTERS' FOLIO.

MONDAY CONFERENCE, JANUARY
17TH, 1887.

Rev. A. B. Mackay of Crescent Street Church, in addressing the Conference of this afternoon, chose as the basis of his remarks, "Paul's injunction to Timothy to do the work of an Evangelist."

"What," said he, "is the work of an Evangelist?" It is dealing with the simple and fundamental Truths of the Gospel, impressing them on the heads, minds and consciences of men. The aim is to reach the unconverted, to teach them that Salvation is of grace not of works, to impress upon them their dire necessity, God's infinite love, and Christ's sufficient atonement, to preach what have been called the three R's. Ruin, Regeneration and Redemption.

Why should this work be urged upon us?

1. Because the tendency is to neglect it. The carnal mind does not like it. We are apt to think that the people tire of the same truths over and over again. But one of the saddest experiences of ministerial life is to find that after the utmost carefulness in presenting them, the simplest truths have not entered the minds of the hearers.

2. Because there is a tendency on the part of some hearers to despise that work, and there is a temptation on the part of the minister to yield to their desire. We need to be reminded that the only power God uses to elevate mankind is the plain, simple, straight Gospel.

3. Because without it our ministry will be incomplete. In this way only can we fulfil our ministry. If we cease to be evangelistic we shall soon cease to be evangelical.

4. Because the results are good, both on ourselves and on those who hear us. Nothing is more helpful to our own heart than to be brought into close contact and deep sympathy with others. It will do good to our hearers whether they are already God's children or not. If we speak Sunday after Sunday as if all who hear were saved we only lull the unconverted into a state of self-deception.

5. Because this is what a great portion of our congregation needs. We do not know how many need it, perhaps it is well that we do not. They may not like it, but the patient often dislikes the medicine that will save his life.

6. Because it is the only subject that will not wear out. We cannot illustrate it too much.

7. Because it is the starting-point of all teaching. The best way to help trustworthy evangelists, as well as counteract the influence of others whom we may have to meet is to do the work of evangelists ourselves.

How are we to do this work? Publicly, of course. Set apart a portion of time for this special work. Some pastors devote the Sabbath evenings to it. But in this matter as in many others we must be guided by circumstances. Be earnest in the work; and let others see your earnestness.