

Contributed Articles.

NEGLECTED FORCES.

I PROPOSE in this paper to indicate and emphasize certain forces or fountains of power for good which are partially neglected by Christian workers of various classes. Foremost among these may be mentioned :

THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

The two are placed together because they are usually united in their action and influence on human souls. The Word, as a repertory of God's thoughts and purposes of love and mercy to our fallen race, as a revelation of his infinite wisdom and divine method of saving lost souls, is the very highest instrument of intellectual, moral and spiritual culture we possess. It is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, and incapable of returning to God void or failing in its appointed mission. Jesus, the Incarnate Word, did not fail or break down in anything which he undertook—he persevered and conquered ; and so he invests his written word with similar and invincible energy when accompanied by his Spirit. Hence the fuller and firmer our grasp of it is the stronger are we for battle and conquest. It is, in the hand of the Spirit, mighty to the pulling down of the strongholds of sin ; and nothing can be compared with it for building up the Kingdom of truth and righteousness in the world.

It goes unsaid, however, that this is far from the estimate formed of it by those whose lives and opinions cannot bear its searching light. Multitudes, in this progressive nineteenth century, have no reverence for the inspired oracles. The secular newspapers, the common novel, the magazine, and the scientific review, are, for religious purposes, placed by them on a level with the writings of prophets and apostles. This is not surprising among those who have no fear of God before their eyes, and who live and act as beasts that perish ; but the lamentable fact is that the same evil is gaining foot-hold in the Churches. Some people deem themselves badly treated, not entertained, but really imposed upon if they hear from the pulpit