

blunders in a man who is in earnest. The zealous soldier, the zealous student, the zealous politician and patriot generally succeed; and why should not the zealous minister? It is good to be zealously effected in our noble work, and to lay ourselves on the altar till the zeal of the Lord consumes us. While sinners are in earnest in destroying themselves, while God is in earnest in offering salvation, while the spirit is in earnest in striving, ought we not to be in earnest in preaching and working?

"Tis not for us to trifle—life is brief and sin is here,
Our age is but the falling of a leaf—the dropping of a tear.
We have no time to trifle with our hours,
All should be in earnest in a world like ours."

We have not left ourselves space to do more than state that men *defective in Christian love* will not do good. We have all witnessed painful instances of intellectual preachers, learned critics, and powerful orators, who, in the proper sense of the Scripture phrase, have never done good. Without the emotion of Christian love in their own souls, they have never produced it in the souls of others. "Tell us that story again," said the Greenlanders to the early Moravian missionaries, after they had been vainly preached to for a long time about the honesties and sobrieties of life. And the missionaries repeated the old soul-saving, world-converting story that God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son to die for sinners. The hearts of the people, cold and hard as their icebergs, melted under the power of that love. No Christian visitor, parent, teacher, brother minister, if you have not love to souls, you cannot and you do not deserve to succeed. Like the ancient puzzle of which we read, and which was only found out when the rings were thrown into a circle marked with certain letters—J-E-S-U-S, so the human heart is an incomprehensible puzzle till touched by the love of God in Jesus Christ. Faith and truth, and wisdom, and zeal would all baffled and we could do no good but for the soul-conquering, resistless influence of this Christian love.

An illustration or two shall be our best application. Many years ago in the town of Belfast we found a poor sailor who had been converted from a life of drunkenness, and who occupied his leisure hours in printing round his room in rude characters such texts as these—"Rejoice young man, but know that for all these things God will bring thee into judgement;" "God is love;" "This is a faithful saying," &c. He went before a minister and signed such a solemn declaration as the following: "GOD BEING MY HELPER, I SHALL LOVE AND SERVE HIM AS LONG AS I LIVE." A few days after, with a bundle of Tracts and Bibles, he sailed with his vessel. Not long since a weather-beaten tar made up to me in the town of —, and was surprised to see that I had forgotten him, and, said he, "I have kept my resolution, and have been circulating Tracts and Bibles ever since!" Happy man! with faith and zeal and love he finds no difficulty in doing good. Again, an experienced and in other respects an exemplary Christian gentleman was once known to me. I endeavoured to force the conviction upon him that with intelligence, opportunity, and ample means he was terribly inconsistent in not actively doing good. He said nothing at the time, but in a few weeks I saw the venerable old man finding his way to the Sabbath school. An attached and important class of young men soon gathered around him. He became interested in them, and could not deny himself the pleasure of visiting them during the week. He entered upon a new life of usefulness, self-improvement, and positive enjoyment, and one day amply repaid me for the advice I had given. "I have to thank you," said he, "not for the good done to the children, but for the very great blessing conferred upon myself." In doing good he received good, and his own religious life was renewed like the eagle's.

Our most solemn argument is the last. A few days ago a brother minister promised us a visit, and to take some services in the neighbourhood. We were