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WINNING SOULS.

TO WIN a *name* men have made great sacrifices. Earthly laurels when won are found interwoven with thorns, and always wither. To win a *smile* principle has been abandoned. The praise of men has stood higher than the praise of God. To win a *contest* what agony, what skill, what power, have been devoted? To win a *fortune* thousands have lost their souls. The attracti<sup>o</sup>n of gain is proverbial. It is a loadstone that draws the human heart. This tendency is, however, sanctified by the power of the gospel. The soul that has been won by Christ, seeks to win others. Winning souls becomes an object that fills the mind, when divine love is shed abroad in the heart. Yet, lest this sacred feeling should be paralyzed, let it be nursed and vigorously exercised. The realization of the lost condition of souls stirs up the blood, the heart yearns over the dying; we are sluggish because unbelief fails to comprehend that thrilling question—What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? A view of the soul's value, and the soul's danger, gives energy to our desires for its safety. If impervious to the light of God's Word on man's immortality and responsibility, no share can be taken in the work of saving souls. We want a high degree of faith, in the unspeakable wretchedness of those without Christ, and in the priceless remedy for the salvation of the sinner, provided in the gospel; then the darkness of the night is chased away and the brightness of the morning cometh. Vigorously grasping the truth that salvation is brought nigh, we work for its diffusion. Recognising these truths, are we satisfied with the present aspect of affairs in our own immediate neighbourhoods? Can we put the question too often—Are these the Lord's doings? Are souls won for Christ in our locality, and by our instrumentality? Alas, alas, may there not be a sad lack of talent in this blessed work? There are undoubtedly obstacles preventing the conquest of souls. They are not won for Christ, but held in bondage by sin. Have we any blame in this matter? Have we done what we could to save them? It has been said—"To the great Head of the Church we must look for a new order of men—men just as absorbed in winning souls to Christ as worldings are in gathering gold."

This gathering of gold may not be literal, but our worldly business may so engross our attention, that we give all our thoughts and efforts to it, while Christ's cause and the good of souls seldom come into our minds. Should a worldliness of disposition creep in among professors, can they expect the presence and blessing of the quickening Spirit? Why have we in Canada not obtained the blessing, as many have done in other lands? Surely it appears that we have not yet attained unto this all absorbing passion of love for win-