

COME, SAITH THE SPIRIT.

Words and Music by C. G. JACKSON.

REFRAIN.

THE TRUE GLORY OF A CHURCH.

BY REV. J. W. CRAKE.

WE are too apt to regard respectability as a synonym for piety, and to conclude we are prosperous, when we are only wealthy. Upon a Church, in which the rich man stands upon his money bags, and imagines himself thereby so much nearer heaven, we may well write Ichabod—the glory has departed. The true glory of a Church consists in

THE PURITY OF ITS MEMBERS.

No Church on earth can be absolutely pure. It is not a valid objection to a Church to say it contains some hypocrites. In this world of mixed motives, and imperfect men, it cannot well be avoided. Indeed, the existence of hypocrites may be regarded as a compliment to the Church in which they are found. Counterfeit coin requires the existence of the real thing in order to make it pass current; and the existence of hypocrisy is the homage which vice pays to virtue. But a true Church will always seek to maintain a godly discipline, and aim at a high standard of holy living.

ITS SPIRITUAL PROGRESS.

All healthy life is characterised by progress. No increase in worldly influence, or material wealth, will serve as a substitute for spiritual growth. The law of church life is progress in purity, Christly zeal, and missionary enthusiasm.

THE UNITY OF ITS MEMBERS.

The Divine blessing cannot be expected to descend amid strife and discord. It is only when the winds are still that the dews of heaven fall upon the thirsty earth. A Church cannot be expected to grow in holiness and usefulness, unless that "union which is strength" obtains among its members.

THE SELF-SACRIFICE OF ITS MEMBERS.

There is no more abject sight than that of a Christian, who, himself saved from a sea of sin, is lying idly just above the tide-mark, making no effort to save those struggling among the billows below. His duty is to get his own feet firmly on a rock, and then reach down a hand to the rescue of his brother from the same stormy wave. A Church composed of indolent members, without sympathy for the lost, and without self-sacrificing zeal to devise means for their rescue, can have no true glory.

CONTINUED ACCESSION TO ITS MEMBERSHIP.

It is a mere commonplace to say, that, unless a Church is recruited by continued accessions from the world, it will speedily die out. The losses from backsliding and death must be made up. The sympathy and fervour which arise from winning men to Christ, exercise a glorious influence. The hearts of the members are bound together in one common bond, animated by one enthusiasm, inspired by one faith, cheered by one hope—distinct as the billows, yet one as the sea.

THE PRAYERFULNESS OF ITS MEMBERS.

Where a Church is in a healthy condition, its members will

throng eagerly to the prayer-meeting. Private devotion will be a pleasure, and family worship a joy. The preacher will be nobly sustained in his work; "the word of the Lord will have free course;" the services of the sanctuary will be attractive; sinners will feel the holy influence; love one to another will increase; Christian-fellowship will be esteemed a sweet privilege; the Sabbath will be a delight; God will bestow His choicest blessings, and all the affairs of the Church will prosper.

We have not exhausted our list of the qualities essential to the true glory of a Church, the space at our disposal being limited; but we are persuaded that any Church possessing the features enumerated, will possess an abiding glory, and exercise a holy influence upon the welfare of mankind.

POWER OF A SWEET VOICE.

THERE is no power of love so hard to get and keep as a kind voice. A kind hand is deaf and dumb. It may be rough in flesh and blood, yet do the work of a soft heart, and do it with a soft touch. But there is no one thing that love so much needs as a sweet voice to tell what it means and feels; and it is hard to get and keep it in the right tone. One must start in youth, and be on the watch night and day, at work and play, to get and keep a voice that shall speak at all times the thoughts of a kind heart. But this is the time when a sharp voice is most apt to be got. You often hear boys and girls say words at play with a quick, sharp tone, as if it were the snap of a whip. When one of them gets vexed you will hear a voice that sounds as if it were made up of a snarl, a whine, and a bark. Such a voice often speaks worse than the heart feels. It shows more ill-will in the tone than in the words. It is often in mirth that one gets a voice or a tone that is sharp, and sticks to him through life, and stirs up ill-will and grief, and falls like a drop of gall on the sweet joys at home. Such as these get a sharp home voice for use, and keep their best voice for those they meet elsewhere, just as they would save their best cakes and pies for guests, and all their sour food for their own board. I would say to all boys and girls, "Use your guest voice at home. Watch it day by day, as a pearl of great price, for it will be worth more to you in days to come than the best pearl hid in the sea. A kind voice is a joy like a lark's song to a hearth and home. It is to the heart what light is to the eye. It is a light that sings as well as shines. Train it to sweet tones now, and it will keep in tune through life."

CHARACTER PRESERVED.—In the report of thirty-five schools of Massachusetts, U.S., it was definitely stated that no individual from their number had ever been arraigned before a civil tribunal for immoral conduct, while only two from all the schools in the State are mentioned who had been arrested, and these attended the Sunday-school irregularly for a very short time.