

Carefully mark once more what the duty is, and how, in the light of the gospels and of the Acts, it is to be fulfilled. In the three years of our Lord's ministry He travelled three times over Galilee. Three times He travelled through Judæa and visited Jerusalem. He preached for weeks at Capernaum, His home, and a border town where many were coming and going. Six months He labored in Peræa ; twice at least He was in Samaria. Twice He sent out disciples—the twelve, the seventy ; and in all these districts there were believers, hundreds of them, though no church was yet formed. Such was His three years' work—an itinerant home ministry—among, perhaps, three millions of people.

In five-and-twenty years Paul travelled three times over a great part of Asia Minor and Europe. Twice he was kept as prisoner for two years, at Cæsarea and at Rome, preaching to all who came to him, and especially to successive soldiers to whom he was chained. At one place he wintered ; at another he spent a year and a half ; at a third two whole years, "So that all they that dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus." The charm of each scene of labor was an open door and many adversaries. If churches were formed, he encouraged others from among the churches themselves to take the oversight of them, sending written instructions for their government. Those instructions are now the inspired handbooks, which we give in a printed form to our converts, and which are, under God, the means of the growth and permanence of our societies. This missionary rented buildings and used the houses of those who were disposed to receive him. He took nothing of the Gentiles—*i.e.*, of the unconverted—but gratefully acknowledged the gifts of all fellow-Christians who ministered to his necessities, and yet was ready to work with his own hands, that he might preach a free Gospel, and maintain his character for disinterested independence. In this spirit he travelled from Jerusalem even unto Illyricum, fully preaching by his life and by his words the Gospel of Christ. Fellow-helpers he found or made wherever he went ; so that within thirty years after the ascension, the sound of the voice of the first preachers—the *music* of their message, as the terms imply—had gone out into all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. And I believe it demonstrable that with apostles, messengers of the churches—missionaries, as we call them, of a like spirit—we are able to do for our world, in the way of preaching, more than Paul and the apostles did for the world of their day.

To the extent of our ability we are to preach it, and we *can preach it to all*. Take the least favorable case. Suppose that this work is to be done by members of churches in Christendom only—*i.e.*, in Europe and America. We might need fifty thousand preachers, and their support might amount to fifty or seventy-five millions of dollars a year for ten years. In that time, and by such an agency, the Gospel might be preached, and preached repeatedly, to every man and woman and child on earth.

It seems a great company—fifty thousand preachers. And yet the