

ter who is in Heaven. When the blessing of God descends, and the sinner is made a partaker of the riches of His grace, it is the divine will and command that that favoured individual should do all that is possible for him to make others sharers in the same grace which has convicted his own soul. "I will bless thee and thou shalt be a blessing." Such is the language which describes the change that God's effectual call to Abraham made in his condition and character. The very hour which witnessed his adoption into the family of God, witnessed also his consecration to the glorious work of dispensing the rich provision of his Father's house to the needy around. In every true conversion to God, the same result will invariably follow. There is, in every such case, the same command, and there is also implanted in the soul the same earnest desire to extend the blessing thus bestowed, and where the influence of this is yet unfelt, true religion can be there only in name. Thus it must be in the case of every individual member, and when one real, living member of the church is described, we have before us the experience and character of the whole body. As in a field of grain, when you give the particulars of one sound and fruitful stalk, you give the history of the whole field, however wide and large, excepting, indeed, the weeds and tares that may unhappily be found there.

The true Church of Christ is composed of individuals blessed of God, every one of them, and as certainly intended for and set apart by Him to be a blessing to their fellow-men. This is the eternal purpose of God, and it is unchangeable. Every member of His family knows this, for not only is the command clear and most solemn, as it speaks from the Bible, it is as certainly engraven also on every renewed heart. Going forth, then, with the blessings of the Gospel to those who are destitute, or, in other words, missionary labour, is not, as too many regard it, a sort of becoming and very laudable appendage of religion, but a very part, an essential part, of that true and pure and undefiled religion which alone can sanctify and save the undying soul. Love to God and love to man constitute the only true religion to be found in this fallen world. God will not recognize, nor will He accept of, any other. Is it possible that, while under the influence of this constraining power, the individual can feel indifferent to the claims of missionary enterprise? Love to God and love to that Saviour who died to redeem, and who in the eternal covenant received the kingdoms and the nations of the world as His heritage, will inspire every renewed soul to every possible effort to expel the enemy who has usurped the dominion of that heritage, and, for many long and dark ages, held it under his cruel bondage. What would be thought of the professions of loyalty that would leave any subject of our earthly Sovereign disposed to sit at his ease and be content while he knew that a bold and unprincipled rebel had usurped her rights and held and treated as his slaves many thousands who should be her free and favored subjects? That man would be justly chargeable with the basest cowardice, or as secretly in favour of that rebel and of his faction, and in his pay; and must not the same rule hold in the case of all the professed subjects of the Great Prince, the King of kings? Do they not know that the arch-rebel against heaven does, at this very hour, sway a power to which he has no right? Do they not know that their gracious Lord and Sovereign is maligned and blasphemed, that His just rights are denied, and that the tribute and the glory which are his due are given to His malignant enemy, —even to stocks and stones,—nay, to the vilest and most loathsome of reptiles, as if on purpose to throw upon Him the utmost possible contempt? Can that man love the Lord Jesus Christ.—can he be a true subject, and feel unmoved while knowing that this is so? Can he be a real friend, and grudge his time, his means, or his prayers, to help on that enterprise, the object of which is to expel the usurper, and place the many crowns of the world on the Redeemer's head,