

effort, as one sees how members of churches have learned to devolve upon a few salaried agents so much of the work that belongs to themselves!

Here then, is a noble sphere for lay evangelists. A godly ministry need never fear, and will never be jealous of the preaching of the Gospel by unordained men, but will rather exclaim, whenever they see their labours divinely owned and blessed, "Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets!" But where there is one who, without a theological training, can preach acceptably, there are a hundred who cannot; and to us therefore, it appears little better than trifling with a most weighty and important subject, to be ever discussing an all but impracticable method of lay effort, and leaving almost unnoticed one in which all may engage. A godly life is an unspoken sermon that reaches many a heart closed against every other kind of religious influence. Every christian man and woman may preach the gospel by a consistent profession, and by simple loving words of warning and of invitation to their careless neighbours around them, just as truly, and often as effectually, as their more gifted brethren can do it from the sacred desk. There is no *lay-preaching* so urgently needed in the present day as this.

It is but too manifest that the breach between the religious and irreligious classes becomes wider every day, and that there has grown up in the minds of the latter an impression that the churches *are not for them*—that they are not wanted there, unless they can *pay well* for their pew—and that, in short, they are *just as well without religion*, if those who profess it care no more for the souls of their neighbours than they appear to do. It is quite likely that in very many cases the objections urged are only an excuse, and that the real cause of their non-attendance upon public worship, is that they choose not to come. It is also quite true that neither of the objections referred to, nor all of them put together, can form a valid reason for their neglect. "The redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth forever," and it is every one's duty to secure his own salvation, irrespective of the sins and short-comings of others. "Every one of us shall give account of himself to God." But it is surely equally true that it is the duty of all who are saved to tell of the love of Jesus to those around them, and to invite them, and welcome them to the house of God, and to the Saviour of sinners.

"If you cannot speak like angels;  
 If you cannot preach like Paul,  
 You can tell the love of Jesus,  
 You can say he died for all.  
 If you cannot rouse the wicked  
 With the judgment's dread alarms,  
 You can lead the little children  
 To the Saviour's waiting arms.

"Let none hear you idly saying,  
 'There is nothing I can do,'