

#### 4. A Service of Work.

In mission work, Jesus led, and one important part of his work consisted in calling, perfecting and sending others. Apostles followed, but these divinely taught men secured the co-operation of the rank and file of the Church. Suitable persons were set apart as office-bearers, but *all* as lights were to shine, as epistles to be read, as servants to work. Hence they journeyed, they sympathized, they helped, they succoured, yea men and women laboured, and laboured much, in the Lord. The services of prayer and home happiness, and training and joyous giving, were followed up by direct toilsome missionary work, and of this, many striking and lovely examples could easily be produced.

#### LAY PREACHING.

Accordingly we find that when the people were scattered over the land, by the persecution which slew Stephen, there was a great expansion of christianity. How could this be, when the Apostles, the great Preachers, remained in Jerusalem?

The key to the whole is furnished in v. 4, of Acts viii., "Therefore, they that were scattered went everywhere preaching the word." It was thus that Apostolic zeal was supplemented by individual enterprise, and when every tongue said "Come" the Gospel spread with unexampled rapidity, and the regions around the Levant, Syria, Asia Minor were speedily overrun. The difference between the Gospel diffused by ministers, and by ministers and people together, is just the difference between arithmetical and geometrical progression. The one is like mechanical increase, by work of human hand or by machinery, the other like increase from animal or vegetable reproduction. "There shall be an handful of corn in the earth, upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon, and they of the city shall flourish like the grass of the earth."

#### OUR TEXT ON HOME MISSIONS.

*This Dominion for Christ*, this whole people for Christ, must be the motto of the United Church, but how accomplished?

There is one way, there is only one way, by the whole church becoming the Mission Band. How can this fine county in which we have been invited to meet, be fully won to Jesus? By its christian men equalling and emulating the zeal of its Politicians in an election contest. Then town and village and surrounding country, are mapped out. Then every street, and every settlement, and every hamlet has its canvasser. Every doubtful voter is visited, personally invited, reasoned with, and possibly *entreated*. Every lawful effort, at least, is exhausted to bring him to a decision in the way desired. All for what? For the triumph sometimes, it is true, of a principle, but often only of a party. And when, on the other hand, decision involves this great salvation, in its bearing on our own friends and countrymen, the elevation of humanity, and the glory of God, can it be that Zion will refuse to awake and put on her strength, and that Jerusalem shall refuse to shake herself from the dust, and to put on her beautiful garments? Shall not every man be visited, be invited to come up to the help of the Lord, and to take a part in the grand campaign against evil? Shall not the undecided be reasoned with, and tried by the most telling and winning appeals. Shall the children of light do less for the Standard of truth and Salvation, than the children of this world to further the interests of Party?

#### TIMES OF PROGRESS.

There have been *memorable seasons* in the church frequently called Times of Revival and refreshing, when the Spirit of the Lord, wrought mightily, and religion made rapid progress. One marked feature of such times has been the awakening of the Saints as a Body, to take part in the work of Evangelization. The first of these seasons in New Testament times, has been referred to, whom the Pentecostal Church proved itself in its membership as well as in its ministry, a living, praying, praising, giving and working church. Then indeed the Lord gave the Word, great was the company of those who published it, and magnificent were the results.