

we feel as to its importance. The chief feature of these meetings ought to be their missionary character—the expression of intense, faithful, wise and loving zeal to save souls from everlasting death. The glorious commission of Christ—preach the gospel to every creature—gives scope for the utmost effort, the most fervent supplication, and the most unbounded liberality. The grand accomplishment of a world brought to the feet of Jesus, is a sight that has filled the eye of faith for centuries. The prayers of the Church shall be consummated in the coronation of Christ with the crown of all the earth. Labour to bring on that glorious day is obedience to the Redeemer. Our work in Canada has not this stirring peculiarity, that it gathers excitement from the tales of distant lands; or glows with the romance of adventure among savage tribes, or the devotees of hoary superstitions. It is a home mission. Is the duty therefore weakened? Nay, verily; beginning at Jerusalem are Christ's words. Reason there is enough to bestir ourselves for the flooding of the land with gospel light—to bear our part in reclaiming the waste places—to lift up a testimony for truth and righteousness in our villages and towns and cities. Have we not faith in the gospel as remedial and saving? Let it therefore go forth to conquer the hearts of our fellow-countrymen,—reforming their habits, uprooting their errors, and saving their souls. In this heaven-appointed work it must operate as a hinderance to progress when there exists defective information as to the work to be done, or ignorance of what has already been achieved. To supply this want so far as the efforts of the Congregational Churches are concerned, the Annual Reports of our Missionary Society are admirably adapted. The last Report is like its predecessors—clear, succinct, and indicative of progress. We have no fear that its facts find there a sepulchre. They furnish arguments for prayer, and tune the heart to praise. The reward of faithful toil, after years of faith, faileth not to inspire with courage the labourers who work and watch and pray. Even through the region of statistics we may rise to a sense of the moral grandeur of missionary labour. What else is the thought: hundreds of millions of the world's inhabitants are perishing,—shall we let them perish,—God forbid! Again, here one, there ten, yonder fifty souls, are reckoned among the saved. Glorious things are spoken of Zion; and can we count up the worth of one redeemed soul? The songs of a nation may celebrate the deeds of heroes on the field of battle; but a glory that excelleth awaits the faithful soldier of Christ,—They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever. To such honour we may aspire. This ambition may fire our hearts and fill our hands. In the sacred engagement every soul that loves Christ can bear a part. Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him, let him know that he who converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

SOME OF THE TEMPTATIONS PECULIAR TO THE MINISTRY.

(An Essay read before the Western Congregational Association, and published at the request of the Brethren.)

Every position in life has a class of trials peculiar to itself. This is especially so with the Christian Minister. He has many temptations as a man in common