

not say we have at present no spiritual power, but we need over the whole Church a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. Our whole Church is living at a dying rate. The power of the Spirit alone can give us the vigor needful to prosecute with success the work that God has given us to do. This power is wanted in our ministers. If all had the power of the Spirit they would manifest more earnestness in seeking to save the lost. If all had the power not only in our own Church, but in all the Evangelical Churches of the world, there would be no need and there would be no room for the Salvation Army; but the Salvation Army has been raised up as a rebuke to the lukewarmness of the Church of God. It is all very well that our ministers should be men of culture, and that they should be familiar with the history of all the heresies that have afflicted the Church, but it is of still greater moment that they should be men of power, rightly able to give the Bread of Life to a perishing world. The Church of to-day in her search after culture has become too refined. She has lost some of her ruggedness and her enthusiasm, and in so doing has lost some of her life. It is a remarkable fact, and one worthy of the study of the leaders of our modern churches, that the Christian church found her first triumphs amongst the poor. It was the publicans and sinners amongst the Jews, the slaves amongst the Gentiles, that were amongst the earliest converts. In those days the Gospel had power to reach many of the lapsed masses, and in our day the Gospel can still reach the masses, if the servants of the Lord have only this spiritual power. We thank God that we have men of spiritual power in our Church, such as Dr. Mackay of Formosa, and we pray that their number may be increased.

But this power that we need is necessary for our people just as truly as for our ministers. Many, alas, too many, professing Christians are cold, careless and indifferent, and why? Because they have no spiritual power; they are living too much for the world and too little for the Kingdom of God; there is too much conformity with the world; they have made a truce with the world and have forgotten that they are to be a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Fashion, pleasure and frivolity rule their lives, and the pressing needs of God's church are forgotten and neglected. How many of the Christians attending service regularly have no interest in the mission work of the Church other than giving, with perhaps a grudge, some of their money for the spread of the Gospel! How many take no interest in the Prayer Meeting! Alas it is because of the lack of the Spirit's power. We need then another Pentecost, but Pentecost will never come unless we seek to fulfill the conditions that existed in the early Church. We must with one accord give ourselves to prayer. O how greatly we need power for our work. The Lord's work is pressing; there are many open doors, there is plenty to do at home and abroad. Would that the Church might awake and, filled with the Spirit, rise in her might to the conquest of the world for Christ. Then mission schemes will no longer languish for means. O then let us all call mightily upon God for this power for our ministers and for our people, and it will be given, then we shall see its effects in greater consecration, greater love, greater zeal and earnestness, and that we all long for greater success in the service of our beloved Master.

A. L.