

# Monthly Messenger.

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## THE WANTS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

### No. V.

Every man must render an account to God for the use he makes of His talents. There are many buried talents in this country—wealth, influence, time, learning—all of which should be employed in the service of the blessed Redeemer. There would be no lack of labours, and no want of means to carry on the work of the Church, if all realised their responsibilities, and lived as those who must render an account of their stewardship.

I had the pleasure of numbering among my friends in Dublin, and among my correspondents since I came to this country, the late Mr. Henry Bewley, widely known in the Christian Church for his earnest spirit of evangelical enterprise and open-handed benevolence.

The total sum that he gave away during his lifetime to charitable undertakings and works of benevolence must have been considerably over *one hundred thousand pounds*. Among his numerous gifts was a cheque of five thousand pounds in 1866 to the London Evangelical Society, founded by Lord Radstock and Mr. Robert Baxter. His purse was constantly open for aiding various societies and individuals engaged in Christian undertakings.

The principal work with which his name is associated is the Dublin Tract Depository, in D'Olier street, which has done a great work of usefulness during the past twenty-five years, and has scattered over the world English, French, Spanish, Italian, and German religious tracts and books amounting to the astonishing number of upwards of five hundred million copies! There is reason to believe that thousands upon thousands of souls have been converted during the past quarter of a century by these religious publications, which were remarkable for the pure and pointed evangelical truth they contained; in fact, the very marrow of the Gospel, and multitudes of them were from his own facile pen. It is said that during the years in which his depository sold for one shilling numberless packets of tracts that cost four shillings, his gratuitous expenditure for this item alone was several thousand pounds a year.

The death of his eldest, then his only, son, aged seventeen or eighteen, about twenty years ago (he subsequently had another, who now survives him), was a marked epoch in his life of generosity. He afterwards stated that he had been amassing a fortune for that son; but he looked upon his death as an indication that he should no longer thus accumulate money, but spend it in the cause of Christ, and he adhered to his determination to the close of his life.

He always possessed, however, a large amount of capital invested in his business as a wholesale chemist, and in gutta-percha and other manufactories. This business brought him into connection with the Transatlantic Cable, in which he held a large share: and the recovery of the lost cable, some ten years ago, was a gain of many thousands of pounds to him. He also at one time received large profits from his coal-mines in Germany. He possessed marked business ability and administrative capacity and shrewdness. At the time of the laying of the cable at Valentia, in Ireland, he gave a banquet to some 300 people connected with that undertaking, and after the repeat hymns were sung, prayers offered up, and addresses delivered by the Rev. H. Disney and the Rev. Dr. John Hall, then of Dublin, now of New York. This was an intrepid act for Christ, as many were present who were scoffers and infidels. I remember the severe criticisms of a part of the secular press on the occasion. But he served the Lord, and cared not for the carpings of dying mortals.

In connection with the great religious revival in Ireland in 1859, 1860, and 1861, Mr. Bewley built Merrion Hall in Dublin, at a cost of £25,000. About that period he also began conferences once or twice every year at Dublin, and he generally sent a five-pound note apiece to about fifty ministers and laymen, with an invitation to attend, and they were hospitably entertained during their stay. On the third day of the conference the meetings were usually held in Mr. Bewley's conservatory, situated at his beautiful residence at Willow Park, Booterstown, between Dublin and Kingstown. Here, too, breakfast and evening meetings were held continually. I have met as many at 400 at tea in the drawing-room and conservatory. The evenings were spent in hearing some distinguished minister or layman, and discussing the best methods of advancing the Kingdom of the Redeemer. He gave a public dinner every day in the year (except Sundays) in D'Olier-street (presiding himself when at home) to Christian workers from every part of the world; in fact, all who came were welcome. Here it has been our privilege to meet with servants of God from almost every part of the world, and of every name.

The great motto of his life was, "In things essential, *unity*; in things non-essential, *liberty*; in all things, *charity*." He loved and longed to be a peacemaker between contending sects of Christians. He held and propagated the views of the *Millemarians*, so called, or the Scriptural doctrines of the Second Coming and Personal Reign of the Lord Jesus. He laboured earnestly and successfully for the conversion of souls. He was a plain but effective speaker, and in many of