

Now, whether we have these conditions existing in our midst, as a Denomination, or not; or to what extent we have them, or come short of them; it would not be seemly in me, occupying the position I do in this Union, to undertake to determine. This I may say, that we owe it to the cause of our Divine Master, and to the spiritual interests of our churches, and the moral well-being of the land in which we dwell, to do all we can, by every means, to secure these conditions in as large a measure as possible. With them our career will be prosperous, and the smile of Heaven will rest upon us; without them, there will be nought but failure, disappointment, and weakness.

In conclusion, this subject appeals to us in our capacity of individual christians. How can we, as individual members of the Church Universal, help in this great work of the world's restoration?

1. By doing all we can for the diffusion of that truth, which we have found precious to our souls, and by which we are sustained.

Next to our own personal salvation, this is the object of our conversion and introduction into the Church of Christ. We have felt the power of that truth, in the hands of the Holy Spirit, to our conversion to newness of life. Let this, then, make us the more zealous to tell our fellow-men of that Saviour and that redemption which we have found.

2. By our example in the world.

No words of mine are needed to convince you of how powerful an agency, either for good or for evil, is example. None can tell where, or when, the results of his example will terminate. This holds true in respect of every relationship in life, which we sustain towards one another; but pre-eminently is this the case with the christian. From the first day of his identifying himself with the cause of Christ, the eye of the world is fixed most intently upon him, in order to discover any, even the slightest, discrepancy between the profession he makes and the life he lives. What humility and caution should this fact inculcate upon us!

3. By our prayers to God.

Prayer occupies so important a position in the moral government of God, that no church, no christian, can neglect it. Whilst, on the one hand, there is the command, "Go work to-day in my vineyard;" there is also, on the other, the important truth, which we must never lose sight of—"Paul planteth, and Apollos watereth, but God giveth the increase." The law is, therefore, pray and work; work and pray. To pray without working, will be vain and a mockery; to work without prayer, will be a bootless presumption.

Finally, my brethren, let us never forget, that it is this blessed truth of the Everlasting Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, exemplified in the lives and teaching of His people, which, in the hands of the Holy Spirit, is the only means for the regeneration of fallen man. You may break down the systems of error that abound in the world; you may remove its despotic and oppressive institutions; you may raze with the ground its gin-palaces and other scenes of vice and crime; you may do all this by the power of the law, but you have not met the case. The house is but swept and garnished, ready for the return of the evil demon with seven others worse than himself. Nothing short of this truth;—nothing but these principles of Christ's holy religion, can cast out the evil spirits, and implant in their stead, in man's nature, the graces and dispositions of God's Spirit, and thus restore the world to its right mind. The experience and the history of all the centuries