

dark world of ours! How wonderful that He should strive with sinners and seek a lodgment for Himself in their impure and ungodly hearts! What forbearance does He exercise towards believers? They are so cold that He has no encouragement to dwell with them. He has to incite them to duty; He has to restrain them from sin; He has to hold them up lest they fall; He has to restore them when they wander; He has to cheer them when they become discouraged; He has to comfort them when they are afflicted and sad. And this he does constantly, not for a few years, but to the end of time, or during the whole life of a Christian, and over the whole extent of the Church.

These thoughts may tend to correct the mistake of certain parties who do not adequately recognize the Spirit's work except in connection with peculiar, local and occasional manifestations of divine grace. Their ideal standard by which they estimate the work of the Spirit leaves partially out of view His permanent, most extensive and deepest work. The means which they use are surely not to be placed in competition with, or to be valued above, or considered a necessary supplement to those that are ordinary and permanent, and which extend over the whole visible Church, and which may be rendered much more efficient than they are. Taking into view the magnitude and extent of the Spirit's work, the local and special means and manifestations of divine grace to which they seem to attach supreme importance, are infinitesimally small. Now, if we are to cherish gratitude, which is most due to the blessed and benevolent Spirit, whose office it is to apply the remedy, we must take into account His whole work in all its magnitude. Then we may more confidently pray for and expect more abundant communications of His grace, by which the Church shall be rendered more blessed, attractive and steadfast.

*London.*

JOHN J. A. PROUDFOOT.