

church could say to the paralytic, 'Rise up and walk.' There is restoring energy in Christian life and example, but a dead formality is powerless and useless. The living soul and loving heart draws to itself. Sympathy and service draw our fellowmen to us, as a mother draws her children. And when our hearts are warm with the love of Jesus and our minds full of sympathy for fellow mortals, that divine magnetism which attracts men to Christ will be exerted through us. And if we live in communion with Him, a power will invest our lives which will influence all with whom we associate. Let us beware of losing spiritual power. Let us watch lest our spiritual temperature fall so low that we chill those whose hearts are warmer than our own. Let us walk in the burning rays of the sacrificial fire of calvary, until our own hearts glow with divine love and the power of the life that is in us be felt by others.

Nor should we overlook the agency of *benevolent institutions*, missionary and other societies, which the Master Builder has so abundantly blessed in the advancement of His kingdom. Thus, in the hands of the divine Saviour the church lengthens and broadens as universally as the atonement he made; rising higher and higher in all the virtues of a Christ-like character, and adorned with all the beauty of the Christian graces, until by the appointed instrumentalities every stone is gathered from the quarry of humanity, vivified with the divine life, united to the divine foundation by faith, conformed by grace to the divine image, and polished by the sanctifying influence of the Holy Ghost, they are at last presented to the Father a glorious church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

III. THE PERMANENCY OF THE CHURCH.—“*And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” All the principalities and powers of darkness and destruction which may assault it will not destroy it. A church built by a divine hand, on a divine foundation, can never be destroyed. The legions of Satan have spent their strength in vain against it. The Jews tried to crush it to the ground and stamp it out of existence. Jesus Christ they crucified between two thieves, Stephen they stoned and James they beheaded; yet the church rose victorious out of the conflict with Jewish prejudice and persecution. Pagan Rome attempted to exterminate the despised Christian sect. Nero burned them in pitched tunics to light his garden and race course by night. Diocletian gave them to the paws of the lions in the arena under the Coliseum of Rome, drove them to seek a living sepulchre in the Catacombs under that city and erected two pillars