

church demands, and the need of a godless, dying world demands, that as nothing is so important as vital godliness, those who profess it shall be consistent, so as that, while none shall be "slothful in business," all shall be "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." Let us see to it, that men shall not say of us, that in pleasure, or fashion, or business, or

In science, learning, all philosophy,
Men labored all their days, and labored hard,
And dying, sighed how little they had done :
But in religion they at once grew wise,
A creed in print, though never understood ;
A theologic system on the shelf,
Was spiritual lore enough, and served their turn ;
But served it ill."

Must we not admit that a chief cause of speculative infidelity, is the practical infidelity of many, who are the professed followers of Christ? Are not the known inconsistencies of professed Christians, among the greatest obstacles to the successful preaching of the Gospel? Might not, nay, would not, our intimate acquaintances, and the members of our families, more readily embrace Christ, if we were more Christ-like? Ours must be an universal and progressive piety, seen wherever we may be—in our tempers, words, and deeds, and ever increasing in intensity of feeling and power. We need such a piety for our own safety and joy, for if we do not progress in Divine things, we retrograde and die. We need it for the glory of God, and the good of perishing men.

We urge upon you to cultivate, with us, a spirit of devotion. Live much in prayer. By frequent and close communion with God, not only will your own souls be refreshed and strengthened amidst the conflicts and cares of life, but will receive that Divine unction, which, better than all things else, can fit you for labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

Cultivate a living faith in God,—a faith that trusts God always, and for all that he has promised. The church must so trust, in order to secure steady progress and constant prosperity. Lacking this, to a certain extent, we have ceased to expect the salvation of souls at the ordinary preaching of the Word, and are rapidly drifting into the persuasion, that we cannot expect God to save men, except as a result of special revivalistic efforts. We bless God, that such efforts have been repeatedly greatly blessed; but if we always prayed as fervently, labored as devotedly, preached as plainly and pointedly, as we do in times of revival, what might not be done in our midst for God and souls? Lay these things to heart, beloved. We speak as unto wise men, judge ye what we say.

Let us, in the coming year, cry unto God with continued and increasing earnestness, to send down his Spirit upon us in larger measure, and to accompany with his saving power, every ser-