

*HOME MISSIONARIES.*

In these days when "many run to and fro, and knowledge is increased;" when missionary zeal and activity are so greatly on the increase, the Christian Church everywhere is full of joy and rejoicing, giving God thanks for "waters in the wilderness and streams in the desert," for difficulties removed and a highway and a way opened, as by miracle, in many a foreign field. And all Christian people delight to honor the noble men and women who have gone forth, called of God, to take part in such mighty works.

While we think of these things, rendering "honor to whom it is due," we would also remember those who are surely as clearly called of God, equally doing the will of God in the *home field*. Specially among them we love to think of those in quiet country places, scattered here and there, separated one far from another, upon whom sometimes falls the care of many churches. On their long Sabbath day's journeys from one appointment to meet another, over our uncivilized country roads, they repeat the experience of the great missionary apostle, "In journeyings often," "in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often," in cold and heat, and sometimes, owing to bad roads, open vehicles and distance from the church, may find gathered together literally the "two or three" of the promise.

To such the outlook must seem very discouraging. It is so natural to desire to see of the results of one's labor, yet while the husbandman, waiting with such long patience, may be able to see no fruit, there is a hopeful, bright side in the

steadily growing warmth of appreciation and affectionate regard for the faithful minister, often evidenced in words of hearty commendation dropped here and there, proving increasing confidence.

The more long continued these faithful ministrations the brighter grows the bright side. When a people feel thus toward a man then is the time he may do them good; for the more we know and love the more we are able to trust, and the more willing to listen and be guided. And even though one see but little of results, though "one soweth and another reapeth," His people shall be willing, in the day of His power, and at the grand harvest of ingathering, he that soweth and he that reapeth, all workers in the Lord's vineyard, shall rejoice together, when "the kingdoms of the world shall become the kingdoms of the Lord and of his Christ."

It is noticeable how much more interest the average listener has in the discussion of doctrines than in their application to daily living. The great festivals of the Church have much observance, as they ought to have. The intervening weeks or months also should have much anxiety that the truths which these festivals declare may affect our hearts and lives.

Peace is better than joy. Joy is an uneasy guest, and always on tip-toe to depart. It tires and wears us out, and yet keeps us ever fearing that the next moment it will be gone. Peace is not so—it comes more quietly, it stays more contentedly, and it never exhausts our strength, nor gives us one anxious, forecasting thought.