

power to cope with him. The progress of the Presbyterian churches in this land and in other lands, depends under God on the energy with which they apply themselves with heart and hand to the urgent work which is set before them,—the evangelizing of the heathen at home and abroad. It is thus only that we may hope to escape fresh heart-burnings and divisions. God grant us all the honour and the privilege of hastening the day when His kingdom of grace shall be co-extensive with the world!

EVANGELISTS.

The Presbyterian Church of England has taken action with a view to draw out more fully the "gifts" of her members, especially of the Elders. She recognizes *Evangelists*, men specially adapted for Gospel work in certain districts, and among certain classes of the people. These men are set apart to the work of evangelists, but not to the regular work of the ministry. The following is the resolution recommended to the Synod and adopted by it:

"That, in view of the godless condition of large masses of the people of England, and looking to the good which has attended the preaching of the Word, and the evangelistic labours of men not designated to the pastoral office, it is expedient to look out for, accept, and employ, with Presbyterian sanction, earnest and devoted men, having special adaptation for such work, under such regulations and supervision as to the wisdom of the Synod may seem fitting."

The experiment has been already made to some extent, and with great success. Earnest "laymen," with Presbyterian and sessional countenance and support, go forth among the "masses" and often deliver the message of salvation to men who are willing to hear. They overtake work which the pastors cannot reach; and the Church does not seem able to support a sufficient number of Home Missionaries to overtake the wants that are pressing. Merchants, lawyers, bankers, farmers, &c., are found willing to undertake evangelistic work for the love of it. They are welcomed, encouraged, and directed; and the results so far are entirely satisfactory. Our own church

might well consider the question of making greater use of the gifts of the good men whom God raises up among us. There is destitution in our borders that we cannot overtake for years. Souls are perishing. Moral darkness is thickening. Should not every man who can speak a word for Christ be earnestly encouraged to do so? And might not the men who have the time, the will, and the gifts be commissioned to go forth as evangelists or as catechists? In some sections of the Church we have "Catechists;" but they are becoming fewer year by year; and there is danger that ere long the goodly race that have wrought so well, may become extinct.

In a Church scattered as ours is there are scores of congregations, or sections of congregations, vacant every Lord's day. The ministers cannot supply every place. But the absence of the minister does not absolve a Christian people from obedience to the command, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together." The *Catechist*, the *Evangelist*, should be at hand to supply as far as might be the minister's place. At the time of the Reformation in Scotland, and long afterwards, the services of godly and zealous laymen were largely called forth and greatly blest. George Gillespie, who took so prominent a part in the deliberations of the *Westminster Assembly*, speaks thus of Evangelists as then recognized in Scotland:—

"Now the proper work of an evangelist I conceive to stand in two things; the first is to lay the foundation of Churches, and to preach Christ to an unbelieving people, who have not yet received the gospel, or at least have not the true doctrine of Christ among them. Their second work is, travelling and negotiating as messengers and agents upon extraordinary occasions and special emergencies, which is oftentimes between one church and another, and so is distinct from the first, which is travelling among them that are yet without. Now, when I call these works and administrations of evangelists extraordinary, my meaning is not that they are altogether and every way extraordinary even as apostleship; for I dare not say that since the days of the apostles there has never been, or that to the end of the world there shall never be, any raised up by God with such gifts, and for such administration as I have now described. But I call the work of evangelist extraordi-