

wall which it proudly labels, "My own righteousness;" the Spirit, when He is come, will convince it of sin and away shall go the refuge of lies, and the false hiding place shall no longer screen from the judgment to come.

As I came on the train yesterday a gentleman called our attention to a speech recently delivered by Dr. Wilkes before the Congregational Colonial Society of England and Wales, and I took the following statements from a paragraph of that speech :

"It would have an impression made upon your own mind concerning the gift of the Holy Ghost. That is a fine statement of the Creed ; I believe in the Holy Ghost— and really that is the great need everywhere. We all need it in our hearts and lives ; all our churches need it ; and we ministers need it who are trying to preach the gospel. Yes we must have it."

*We have human lives through which the saving influence may come to men.* Human lives, not divine, not angelic, not devilish. But because human the most effective channel. The heaviest thing on earth is character. It will weigh more to the square inch than anything else. And God has ever had this in view when selecting his redeeming agents. Here and there He selects a Baalam, and a Saul, but in every age He lays hold of the Abrahams, the Moses, the Josephs, the Samuels, the Pauls and Johns. Because truth in living example is more impressive than on printed page or in verbal utterance. In holy character lies largely the secret on the human side, of the gospel's progress in the first and second centuries of the christian era. Its power must have been in Christ's mind when He said, "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil." "Sanctify them." And never before in the history of mankind had a holy life more power than in the latter part of the 19th century. A period in which rightly or wrongly men are impatient of dogma, when creeds which have held almost undisputed sway over men's minds for centuries are either cast aside as useless, or treated with ridicule. Yet men have no ridicule now for a pure christian life, and when they discover its presence among them they willingly yield it homage, even where they do not follow its teachings.

Oh, Brethren, let us each aim to possess the influence of the life which has put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and makes no provision for the flesh.

*We have a church polity which readily adapts itself to time a place.* It is as Tyndal said of Faraday, like a river which readily adapts itself to the flexures of the bed along which it has to move. It can and does flow musically amid shallow places, and with a strong

majestic current in the deeper parts. Whatever means are necessary and available in the estimation of local workers can be at once put in operation, without waiting the orders of ecclesiastical superiors. We have, of course, our precedents, but these must stand aside if the exigency of the present demand it. Any improvement on present methods is welcomed and the stranger is given a home among us. Under this free polity how many souls have been saved ! It is not essential to go back and speak of the work of the Congregational Churches in the first two hundred years of the christian era, to assert they have saved many souls, but only over the past two hundred in England, and the last one hundred in America. What a vacancy would be made in the ranks of the hosts in heaven were all to be removed who have been sent thither through the churches of our order. For the greater part of this period they have stood among the first in evangelistic work, and never lower than second, and this only in the earlier days of aggressive Methodism, and possibly during the twenty-five years just closed.

We have thus the very best means for the saving of lost men. Let us avail ourselves of them to the fullest extent. There are prizes for our King about us everywhere, and we should take them and make His crown already beautiful more glorious by additions of the only gems on earth—He covets souls washed by His own blood, clothed in His own righteousness, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

And if anything further were needed by way of stimulus to our engaging earnestly in the work of saving men may it not be found in the consideration that *all now on earth are rapidly approaching the end of their probationary period?* For does not death end probation ? Such, at least, is part of our faith. Standing then in the light of this truth, and gazing on the vanishing multitudes of unsaved men and women, shall not our hearts be most deeply moved and the desire to save some be as a fire in our bones ? Some whom we might have savingly reached in past years, will have terminated their salvable condition before we see them again. Others will pass into eternity in a week, hundreds in our land easily accessible to us during the remainder of the present year will be far from our ministry twelve months hence. What we do therefore must be done quickly. Why may not this first Union meeting at the Dominion Capital be known to history as the meeting at which was born in us ministers and representatives of our churches the "passion for souls" under the sway of which no saving labor will be accounted difficult, nor will the prospect of ease or pleasure, or indulgence of false sentiment, or reproach or personal danger, cause us to leave the sinner in his sin and himself drifting or rushing on to