

Jesus. "Filled Jerusalem."—Showing how widely the gospel had been preached. "Your doctrine."—Their teaching of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and of His work as the Messiah. "Bring this man's blood upon us."—That is, making the people believe that they had been guilty of murdering Jesus. That this was true was shown by the answer that the apostles made.

V. 30. "Raised up Jesus."—Raised Him from the dead. "Hanged on a tree."—On the cross of Calvary.

V. 31. "To give repentance."—To make repentance possible, and give the spirit of penitence.

V. 32. "His witnesses."—They had witnessed His life and death, had seen Him after His resurrection, and now were bearing testimony to the facts. "So is . . . the Holy Ghost."—The Holy Ghost was bearing witness by the miracles which accompanied the preaching of the apostles, and the power of that preaching.

THOUGHTS.—Bishop Latimer having one day preached before King Henry VIII; a sermon which displeased his majesty. He was ordered to preach again on the next Sabbath, and to make an apology for the offence he had given. After reading his text, he thus began his sermon:—"Hugh Latimer, dost thou know before whom thou art this day to speak? To the high and mighty Monarch, the King, who can take away thy life if thou offendest, therefore take heed that thou speakest not a word that may displease; but then consider well, Hugh, dost thou not know from whence thou comest; upon whose message thou art sent? Even by the great and mighty God! who is all-present! and who beholdeth all thy ways! and who is able to cast thy soul into hell! Therefore, take care that thou deliverest thy message faithfully. He then proceeded with the same sermon he had preached the proceeding Sabbath, but with considerable more energy. Afterwards the King called for Latimer and asked him how he dared to be so bold as to preach in such a manner. He replied that he had merely discharged his duty. If he was not faithful to his earthly monarch. Upon which the King embraced him saying, "Blessed be God, I have so honest a servant."

## CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

### DAILY READINGS.

First Day—The Prison Opened for Peter and John.—Acts v. 12-32.

Second Day—Peter Delivered by the Angel.—Acts xii. 1-19.

Third Day—Paul and Silas set Free.—Acts xvi. 16-40.

Fourth Day—"The Word of God is not Bound."—2 Tim. ii. 1-18.

Fifth Day—"Not an Hair Shall Perish."—Luke xxi. 5-19.

Sixth Day—The Safety of the Godly.—Pa. xci. 1-16.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, Feb. 14.—"THE GREAT HOME FIELD." Luke x. 1-16.

### THE GREAT HOME FIELD.

The propelling force behind all Christian work, whether it be at home or abroad, is the subjugation of the kingdoms of this world to the one kingdom of Christ. That is the meaning of the word *Missions*—the sending forth of Christian men and women to Christianize the world, to take the things of Christ and make them known to the pulling down of the strongholds of sin, Satan, and death, and to the building up among men of the Kingdom of peace, righteousness, and eternal life. This is the watchword of every missionary of Jesus Christ, it is the secret of all Christian activity and enterprise; it is the key to the solution of the question, What is the true mission of Christ's Church to the World?

This watchword insures the perpetuity of missions, and makes their success a fact. So long as the Church of Jesus Christ has existence on earth, just so long will it put forth every endeavor to fulfil its true mission, it will ever be found true to its Lord, proclaiming and establishing His supremacy whenever and wherever it can.

It is this that makes missionary work most imperative and imposes upon all who profess and call themselves Christians the personal duty of loyalty and devotion.

This answers the questions, Are Missions Necessary; Should we expend large sums of money upon the heathen in the far off portion of the world, and not specially remember those that are thirsting for the waters of life in the Home Field, but all can be done and done well if the Christian Endeavorers do their duty.

The Presbyterian Church is the Spirit of Missions. This is her Magna Charta. She lives to give her life to the world, that the world may become Christ's and crown Him Lord of all.

The following considerations by Rev. Dr. Cochrane in *The Record*, may suggest others to the reader:—

(1.) It is easier to preserve and foster religious life where it already exists, than to introduce it where it is not, or to revive it where it has grown cold and numb. Under God this depends on the means of grace administered by the Home Missionary. I Cor. iii. 5-7; Eph. iv. 11-14.

(2.) Increased efficiency of the Church in all departments depends on the diligent prosecution of Home Mission Work. Who can estimate the influence for good to succeeding ages of a single congregation brought into existence by the labors of the Missionary? How inestimable the loss where such a possible work has been neglected? Financially it pays. How much is being contributed every year for Augmentation, Foreign Missions, French Evangelization, Colleges, etc., by congregations that owe their existence to the Home Mission Fund.

(3.) The wholesome influence of Presbyterianism on national as well as personal morality. It matters everything for a man's conduct what he believes doctrinally. The more thorough the Presbyterianism there is in any nation, the better for that nation's morality, good government, and stability.

A moments thought suffices to admit the supreme importance of the Home Mission Work of the Church. It is the heart of all other operations.

The Home Field is sometimes subordinated to other fields of labor, but as a rule its greatness and the magnitude, and the importance of its work are recognized and admitted. This is as it should be. The Home Mission is the garden where grows the seed for the wider fields abroad, where are planted and cultivated the tender plants which as wide-spreading trees shade and shelter the Master's followers in far off climes. It is as the heart of the individual, as the heart requires the greatest care and attention so that the life may be right, so the work at home must be the best so that the various other schemes may be sustained from the best motive and furthered in the proper spirit.

In Home Mission work the Presbyterian Church should know no such word as retreat, both men and money are required to carry on the great work. When these facts are known the Christian Endeavor Societies will not fail to respond and do their part with both prayer and money to send the words of life to those of our kindred who at present are deprived of the blessings we possess.

## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

This department is conducted by a member of the General Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies. Correspondence is invited from all Young People's Societies, and Presbyterian and Synodical Committees. Address: "Our Young People," PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2465, Toronto, Ont.

### A LABOR OF LOVE.

More than a hundred years ago, in the North of Europe, stood an old cathedral, upon one of the arches of which was a sculptured face of wondrous beauty. It was long hidden, until one day the sun's light, striking through a slanted window, revealed its matchless features. And ever after, year by year, upon the days when for a brief hour it was thus illuminated, crowds came and waited eagerly to catch but a glimpse of that face. It had a strange history.

When the cathedral was being built, an old man, broken with the weight of years and care, came and besought the architect to let him work upon it. Out of pity for his age, but fearful lest his failing sight and trembling touch might mar some fair design, the master set him to work in the shadows of the vaulted roof. One day they found the old man asleep in death, the tools of his craft laid in order beside him, the cunning of his right hand gone, the face upturned to this other marvellous face which he had wrought—the face of one he had loved and lost. And when the artists and sculptors and workmen from all parts of the cathedral came and looked upon that face, they said: "This is the grandest work of all; *love wrought this!*"

It is not the deed we do,  
Though the deed be never so fair,  
But the love, that the dear Lord looketh for,  
Hidden with lowly care  
In the heart of the deed so fair.  
The love is the priceless thing,  
The treasure our treasures must hold,  
Or ever the Lord will take the gift,  
Or tell the worth of the gold  
By the love that cannot be told.  
Behold us, the rich and the poor,  
Dear Lord, in thy service draw near.  
One consecrateth a precious coin,  
One droppeth only a tear;  
Look, Master, the love is here!