

led of the Spirit in all things. They may make a promising start, and in the eyes of worldly people seem to succeed for a time; but sooner or later their human efforts subside, and their work dies with them. But he who walks in the Spirit knows not, as an experience, these spasmodic efforts which, like the light of the moon, waxes and wanes, but is as the sun which grows brighter and brighter unto the perfect day—changed from glory to glory by the Spirit.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

THE CONFERENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE
SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

ORILLIA, May 12.—The Conference in connection with the Synod of Toronto and Kingston began this evening in the Presbyterian Church here, Rev. James Middlemiss, D.D., presiding. After devotional exercises, Dr. Middlemiss delivered a brief introductory address regarding the Holy Spirit's work in redemption in all its completeness. There is not in the minds of the people a due apprehension of the Spirit's personal agency. The personal work of the Holy Spirit in the entire work of redemption is a matter of faith. It is a subject of divine revelation. It is the work of a Divine Person. He is the author of all the good we experience. We ought to all live in the spirit of prayerful dependence on the Divine Spirit, for unless we do, our apprehension of the Spirit's personality is apt to be slight. We should seek to have a distinct realization of the Spirit's presence and power, and that this should be quickened and strengthened. The promise of the Holy Spirit, dates back to the first promise of God's glorious redemption. The present dispensation has the promise in fullness far beyond the experience of former times. The ancient prophets foretold the full and glorious outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The full interpretation of these prophecies is to be found only in the new dispensation. But why the barrenness of Christian work to-day? Why are conversions so few and so far scattered? It would be a mistake to despond or to rest in the notion that the state of depression is to be permanent. Unbelief is one principal cause of the inefficient character of the work which we deplore. Of one thing we may be certain, that the fulfilment of God's promise is only delayed; its ultimate fulfilment is sure. Let

us not be despondent. The hindrances to the realization of God's promise are in ourselves. Where else can they be? It is unbelief. Let us enter on this Conference in an earnest and hopeful spirit. Conversions in the heathen world are numerous. The spirit of unbelief is abroad in Christian lands. It may be that the strong man armed, feeling that it is the last time, is eager as never before to hinder the progress of Christ's truth.

Rev. John Somerville spoke of the Holy Spirit in His present office in the Church. It was the intention, he said, that at this Conference they should go over the ground of the Spirit's work, laying special emphasis on the personality of the Holy Spirit. He is too often spoken of slightly and as if an impersonal influence. The personality of the Holy Spirit is not sufficiently emphasized in our preaching. We fail to realize that many see no other Christ than that they see in the lives of His followers. Professional followers are the only Bible that many people have. Our lives must be inspired by the Spirit. Doctrines are dead things unless they are inspired by the Spirit. The widely differing experiences of affliction were alluded to. One case hardened, the other softened and touched; in one case the Spirit was absent, in the other present.

Rev. Alexander Jackson, in the absence of Rev. Mr. Johnson, Lindsay, opened the discussion of the next topic. Short and direct remarks having a practical bearing were made by Rev. Messrs. McAlpine, J. A. R. Dickson, J. B. Duncan and others, and a pleasant and profitable meeting was closed with prayer and the benediction.—*Mail*.

REMARKS.

We are glad to note this distinctive effort to emphasize the character and work of the third person in the Godhead, and we trust that the conference here alluded to and described will find many imitators.

A call for such a gathering, although on a larger scale, has been made by some in the Methodist Church, and if responded to will doubtless result in much good.

It will require very much distinctive teaching after this pattern before the proper balance will be restored, and it can be truthfully said that the especial work of the Holy Ghost has been recognized as amply as that of the Lord Jesus Christ.