

for evangelists, whether helping the churches, or disintegrating them, have been large congregations and Christian communities, in which gospel ordinances have been, with some measure of faithfulness, maintained in the past. They enter largely into the labours of other men.

We rejoice that God has at this time called the attention of the church to the office of evangelist, in addition to that of pastor. Events show that both are needed; neither is the former a gift of our ascended Lord any more than the latter. It is to be deplored that some have forgotten this; and, because God has highly honored some evangelists, have spoken disparagingly of the pastorate. How foolish, as well as sinful it is, to glorify the reaper, when, amid the autumn glories and joys of the harvest home, he brings the sheaves, at the expense of the ploughman, who, with arduous labour and amid the discomforts of the spring, ploughed and harrowed the ground, and fenced and weeded the growing crop, but was not permitted to gather in. Surely the two should rejoice together. They have laboured together; but God's is the increase. The seed, the growth, the ripeness, the precious grain, are the Lord's. Evangelist and pastor are both servants, both needed, both doing their work according to their several gifts from the Master.

The same man may at times act both as evangelist and pastor, and perhaps God is showing ministers how in their ordinary ministrations, or by the use of special services and the adoption of a more hortatory and less didactic style of preaching, they may do the great work of an evangelist in leading men to decide for Christ, and thus themselves reap where they sow.

We shall probably see in many places such evangelistic services held with or without the aid of so called evangelists. Already both in Scotland and Canada it has been done with a good measure of success. Dr. Blaikie says on this point "the truth is, that in many parts of Scotland where the evangelists have never been, there has been a work of grace more extensive in proportion to the population than in any place which they have visited." This is truly encouraging, and shows us that while God honours men by using them, He can work without them; yes, God's spirit is present whenever the gospel is preached, and, without any particular men or class of men, faith and labour will command the blessing.

Consecutive meetings held every day for a lengthened period, the singing of the gospel where it can be done, the judicious narration of the experience of the awakened, (though this requires most delicate handling), the reiterated appeal to feeling and imagination, personal dealing with the anxious, and the call for open profession of religious interest, seem to be the chief and usual concomitants of evangelistic meetings. They appear to have been blessed in their use, and as in themselves they are unobjectionable, they may with propriety be used. At the same time, it must be borne in mind, that special services will be more likely to be useful where the ordinary means are attended to, and that they can never take the place of the latter; that the work of the pastor is to *edify the converted*, and to instruct the reason and conscience of all, so that the earnest awakening appeals of the evangelist, however successful, can never supersede his functions; nay, rather will make it necessary for him to follow up the awakening with earnest doctrinal teaching, and presentation of gospel truths in its fulness; and that in order to attain the highest results, the ordinary means of grace must be diligently used, for if they are neglected a season of inglorious reaction, with questionable doctrines, apathy and grievous back-sliding, and scandal may shortly supervene.