

date, sensible, catholic-spirited man, who has a kind word for all other missionary agencies, while he is following his own plan in a humble dependence on God for the means of carrying it out.

THE SALVATION ARMY.—Here is another undenominational organization of recent origin, but gigantic growth, whose sayings and doings are continually arresting attention, and whose light is not to be hidden under a bushel. The Army has quite recently enlisted *twenty* Canadians to join its ranks in India. As an instance of its economical mode of working, it is said that the cost of sending each of its missionaries to India is only \$100, and \$25 a year to support them when they are there! Meetings recently held in Montreal and Toronto, and other cities and towns in Canada, were addressed by several Indian converts dressed in their native costume, which created a great deal of interest and practical sympathy. In Toronto, Hon. John Macdonald and Mr. Gooderham each provided for the passages of four of the new contingent. While the Churches are sending out their twos and threes at a time in response to the Macedonian cry, these “irregular,” and accounted by many, *despised* agencies, are sending forth consecrated men and women *by the score* to rescue the perishing, thus inaugurating a new era in missionary enterprise and setting a noble example to wealthy and influential Societies and Churches, and to all who profess to take an interest in the evangelization of the world. In saying this much, we guard ourselves against endorsing all the doings, and still less the *doctrines*, of the Salvation Army.

Elders.

THE Presbyterian Church has led the way in the employment of devout and consecrated laymen in the service of the church. Bishop Hendrix of the Methodist Church, recently said:—“With the beginning of Protestantism, laymen entered, as in the Apostolic times, into the work of extending the kingdom of our Lord. All honour to the Presbyterian Church, which, in such an early day, called into its councils

wise and godly laymen—an example that has been followed by other denominations in the Protestant world, until to-day there is not a leading church in Christendom that doesn't allow laymen to share in its deliberations and legislation.” It is well that the example set by the Presbyterian Church, has been so widely followed. Indeed, in the Methodist Church, local preachers and class-leaders, are doing much more work than usually falls to the lot of our elders. It is high time for us Presbyterians to live up to our system or polity. Our elders should be more and more active in the work of the church, ruling, teaching, leading the flock; assisting the ministry in every way possible.

TRY IT! There is a measure which should be adopted forthwith in every vacant congregation and preaching station: one meeting at least should be held on every Lord's Day. If no minister is available, let an elder take charge. If there is no elder, let some other good man lead. If there is no man able or willing, then why may not some Deborah, or Huldah, some godly woman, fill the gap? At any rate, forsoke not the assembling of yourselves together, even in dark and stormy winter weather. Religion cannot flourish, it can hardly live, where Christians fail to assemble on the Lord's Day. If no one present has a “word of exhortation,” then let a sermon by an approved author be read. Readings of this sort have been the means of doing much good; and a great loss is incurred by neglecting them.

It was a costly blunder in policy for our Presbyterian Churches, in the days that are past, to give up their own meetings and services, because no minister was at hand. It is well to have ministers, and we should use every lawful endeavour to secure their services. But there will be, this winter, hundreds of stations without regular services by ministers or catechists—stations that enjoyed the means of grace during summer. Are these stations to be left vacant? we hope not. It will be a blunder to do so. Better send such supply as is available, than send none at all. Elders and members of the church who are mighty in the scriptures, and are gifted with the power of speech, should be “thrust forth” wherever possible. Very many of our elders and devout members can present the Gospel as faithfully and impressively as any “local preachers.” The lack of preachers, in the past sixty or