

cannot take up the position that our combined moral opposition to evil is not so great now as it was two months ago? And yet, if we remain as we were and as we are, it just comes to that. If there is no individual progress on our part, it simply means that the loss of a good man gives an advantage to the Archadversary of the kingdom of righteousness, and that our strength is not so great now as it was then. God never designed that the translation of His saints to glory should be accompanied by any such impoverishment of spiritual power. On the other hand He is able and willing and waiting to make His grace to abound toward us more and more, so that we might be stronger than ever in the Lord and in the power of his might. And Oh! when an earnest Christian worker is called home from this earthly sphere, is it not a solemn exhortation to those of us who remain to gird our heavenly armor on with renewed and increased determination to offer a stouter opposition to sin both in ourselves and in the world around us, and to cultivate a more aggressive type of Christian life and conduct. We are very far from what we ought to be, and there is ample scope for renovation and improvement in the arena of our own heart life. And without going beyond the bounds of our own observation, when we look around us at the moral and spiritual condition of our immediate surroundings, we find that Satan is still to an alarming extent the God of this world; he exercises a tremendous influence here in our own town. How is this evil power to be annihilated? None but Almighty God can vanquish the foe. And how does God work? Through his people—this is the divine method. Christ made that very plain when He promised to send the Spirit. That Spirit was to convince the world “of sin, of righteousness and of judgment;” but His convicting and convincing energy was to manifest itself through the disciples. “I will send him *unto you*,” said Christ, and *then*, when He is come, He will convince the world. What then is the lesson of the hour for you and for me? Surely it is the lesson of fresh personal consecration to the service of God and to the cause of humanity. There are souls to save; there are multitudes going down to destruction who need to be rescued, and the work of reclaiming the perishing and lifting up the fallen is your work and mine. We are now living in the only period of possible service. Whatever we do, we must do quickly, for we know not the day nor the hour when we shall be summoned away from the field of conflict. The days are evil, and the time is short. Let us redeem the time; let us buy up every opportunity of service; let it be our motto to move forward, “marching as to war, looking into Jesus, who is gone before;” and at the great reckoning time, it can be said of us, “he that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”

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