

example and commission are on our side. The practice of the Apostles and Evangelists is on our side, and so far as we can say, this in truth so far we have the head of the Church with us.

With so great a field around us, with so very few to engage in the work, we would encourage our hearts and yours, to diligence by the cheering assurance that Christ is not against us, but for us. It only remains to consider what is best to be done, for we take it for granted that every true hearted christian amongst us desires to do something.

I. Let us pray heartily and earnestly, not only in general for the spread of the truth throughout the world, but in particular that here, at our own doors—here where we have scarcely gained a footing, the cause may advance. If it be wrong to pray for the spread of Baptist principles, then it is wrong to cherish them; but since they are New Testament principles, let us habitually pray that others may see what Christ commands them to do, and be disposed to yield a ready obedience to all his requirements. We cannot hope that God will spread the truth by miraculous agency: he employs men as his instruments, and therefore let us pray for laborers—laborers for this wide field where we have only one minister to every 50,000 of the population—where thousands have never seen one Scriptural Baptism.—Pray in secret for this; pray in your families; pray in prayer meetings; pray for laborers as you perceive the destitution while journeying, or think of it at your homes. Our Saviour enjoins this duty upon us, and do not our hearts and consciences accord in telling us that we must be more prayerful as a denomination before we can hope for a larger measure of prosperity?

Allow us affectionately to suggest the propriety of having special seasons of prayer for this object, when, with united heart we may mourn over the desolations of Zion, and with the Psalmist exclaim, "Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion!" (Ps. 14.)

II. Let us look around us for the laborers. We cannot expect that in answer to our petitions the Lord will send laborers down from heaven for us. He will raise them up, and we are to seek them out. Let us expect to find them