

are to do the work to which Christ calls us in these Provinces, the energies and the liberality of all our people must be called forth. Suitable channels for the beneficence of all must be provided. The assistance of the poorest and most obscure must not be despised. Our aim is, not to build grand cathedrals or to accumulate property, but something infinitely nobler and more important,—to gather souls to Christ, and to aid in completing that glorious living Temple of which Christ Himself is the chief corner stone.

Our Church has not done what she could in forming plans and carrying them into vigorous execution for gathering in weekly or monthly contributions from all our people. Many congregations are still far, far behind the position which they ought to occupy. Benevolence and self-denial are not developed as they ought to be. What we need is a far-reaching system regularly carried out, so that every member of the Church, every one who is a Presbyterian, may have sufficiently frequent opportunities of giving as God has blessed him. It is humiliating to think that we are still behind Roman Catholics in the grace of giving—that they give under the compulsion of fear more than we do under the sweetly constraining power of love. “At it, all at it, always at it,”—is a good motto in Christian work. It is thus that the world is to be conquered to our blessed Master.

A GOOD PLAN.

The following plan for promoting the usefulness and increasing the circulation of the *Free Church Record*, is well worthy of consideration within the bounds of our own Church, and with reference to our own *Record* :—

“It cannot be denied that many of our people habitually neglect the *Record*, to their own loss. What I have to suggest is a simple plan; which it is in the power of every minister to adopt, and which will do good both to him and to his flock. On an early Sabbath of each month let him set apart a quarter of an hour in one of the regular sanctuary services for what I have to

propose. These ten or fifteen minutes are not to be *added*, only interpolated in the usual time. Having previously prepared himself by some little additional reading, let him draw the attention of his people to a *few* (not by any means all) of the leading articles and letters, and then make these subjects of special pointed prayer. He is not, of course, to read the papers, but so to direct the thoughts of his flock to them that they will not fail themselves to read what has been vividly set before them. If the thing is to be done in a rapid, dull, mechanical way, it had better not be done at all; but if graphically and pictorially done, it will prove fruitful and edifying. I happen to belong to a congregation where our Home and Foreign Missions are never suffered to be long away from our attention, and I know the benefit of this. The plan which I have proposed is not in use there, but I have heard of one congregation where it was long practised, and with excellent results.”

THE TRUE STANDARD.

We must not measure our duty by the conduct of others. If neighbour A. is stingy, mean, “near,” chicken-hearted, selfish,—that is no reason that you should be like him; but rather it is a strong reason why we should manifest the opposite virtues. Christ is our pattern; and we are to follow men only in so far as they follow Him. When Christ appeals to you by any of His messengers in aid of any Christian enterprise, the question is not, How much did Mr. A. or Mr. E. give?—but how much would Christ desire me to give?—How much does He need—how much would He give were He in my position—and, how much *did* He give for me? Were we to speak thus to our own hearts and consciences and measure our duty by Christ’s infinite love, there would be less occasion to mourn our depleted Church funds, empty treasuries, half-finished places of worship, and desolate moral wastes. Love is the lever by which Christ lifts the world to God; and it was love that brought the God-Man down to the world. Looking to Him whose name and nature are love, let us learn to follow in His footsteps, and do all in our power, to honour Him by promoting His cause.