

tendance of 116—an Infant School, in which there are 200 scholars—a Sewing Class of 40 girls, the produce of whose work is devoted to missionary objects—Sabbath Schools, which meet morning and afternoon, and are in a prosperous condition, in which there are 61 teachers and an average attendance of 430 poor children—a Music Class and Lectures, to which a Library is attached—a Working-man's Institute in which there are a Library and Reading-room—and finally, there is a Savings Bank doing a flourishing business. The report concludes with an account of collections by the congregation on behalf of Missions, the College and the Schools of the Church, amounting altogether to the munificent sum of £1198 sterling.

This is true Christian enterprise. The church bushel is here laid aside and the light put upon a candlestick, that it may shine upon the poor neglected outcasts who are perishing for lack of knowledge. Every Church might in some proportion do the same thing, if its members would only set about it and try to help in the work of saving souls. It is lamentable to think that our Churches generally are composed of so many who need to be helped and who never seem to reach that stage of Christian sense and enlightenment at which they may be helpers. Our present system of Church action and work is a sort of glass case system—a museum of fossil Christian curiosities whose members don't seem to think that they have any business with the outer world at all except it may be to pity, and to pray for it, to give a little now and then to improve it, and to do anything but *work* for it. Now this won't do. The Church will never extend itself by this way of acting; the feast is ready—the invitation is given—the servants must go to the high ways and the lanes, and press the multitude of way-farers into the banquet of the Lord. One pleasing and hopeful feature of these times is that Churches are beginning to be alive to their obligations in this respect, and are laying aside the jealousy with which they were wont to hedge in and guard their own enclosures lest any member thereof should desert to another part of the vineyard more needful of his help, or lest any new interest for the conversion of souls should spring up in their neighbourhood. Christian men are beginning seriously to feel that the Church does nothing for the Lord in simply gathering and attracting by various arts sheep from other Christian folds, and that the only true Church work that is worthy of Christ's people is that of bringing the outcasts—the godless, the erring, and the profane—into the fellowship of the Saints. Much is being done in this way by the various Churches in Scotland, and in England. This is undoubtedly work that God will bless. Had such a spirit as this prevailed during the three centuries since the Reformation, we should now have had a very different state of things to contemplate in Christendom. Now that the work has been begun, we trust it will go forward with a daily accelerated speed. Who can say that there is not much,—very much—for the Church yet to do, to which she has not yet so much as put her hand with any serious purpose! It is only a congregation here and there that is doing anything for its perishing neighbours; and even those Churches which show some signs of life are yet far from being truly awake.

We do not think that this low state of Christian activity arises altogether from the want of true piety amongst our people, or from any insensibility to the wants and claims of the perishing sinner. It rather, we apprehend, arises from the fact that within the immediate circle of the congregation most Churches find quite enough to do. Our houses are somehow or other not yet set in order—like persons who have had to “flit,” our “stuff” is yet in confusion and wants redding up. We have, for example, Church debts both consolidated and floating, which keep the most torpid awake and try the strength and patience of the strongest and the meekest. When shall this blot upon our Zion be wiped out! Debts are a festering sore in the side of the Church which keep her in a