

preach good tidings to the meek : he hath sent me to bind up the brokent hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”—“I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation to the ends of the earth.” Such was the commission given to the great Prophet of the Christian profession. When he left the world he transferred his evangelistic functions to his disciples, to be exercised in his name and stead till the end of time. “All power, said he, is given to me in heaven and earth : go ye *therefore* and teach all nations—and lo ! I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” From this it is plain, that the church is essentially evangelistic in her nature. She is constituted by her Great Head the depositary of that system of means by which the world is to be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. These means she holds in solemn charge, and if she do not employ them she is false to the trust committed to her. That which is stated to be the duty of the church, is the duty of all the individuals composing it. Every member of the church should consider himself as identified with the cause of the Saviour ; and whoever does not so consider himself has little acquaintance with the word of God. That word tells him that he is not his own, that he is bought with a price, and commands him, therefore, to glorify God in his body and in his spirit which are Gods. The motives which it holds out are, the love of Christ and the hope of a glorious immortality. Under the weight of these obligations, and influenced by these motives, what Christian would not exclaim—all that I have I dedicate to God : yea I count not mine own life dear that I may win Christ and finish my course with joy.

Many church members think, that because of their poverty and obscurity they can do nothing to advance the progress of the gospel. They who thus think lose sight of the relations which they sustain to the whole. All the members of the body have not the same office, but every one however insignificant, is designed to subserve some end in the general system. Let the head perform the duties of the head ; the hand those of the hand, and the foot those of the foot, and nothing more is required. Thus it is in the church ; if each do according to the extent of his ability, it will be accepted according to that he hath, and not according to that he hath not.

But the great desideratum in the church is not so much the want of ability as the want of a willing mind. Did every christian minister regard himself as a missionary, and every layman look upon himself as belonging to God ; and did the whole church earnestly pray for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom there would be no lack of missionaries nor means to support them. It is because the church has robbed God in tithes and offerings that there is such a deficiency in both. She has monopolized the blessings designed for all nations : she has fed on dainties at the king's table, while millions are perishing with hunger. It is her wealth, not her poverty, that paralyzes her exertions. Were she poor and zealous as in