

the symbolism of the sacraments, and especially by their blameless and disinterested behavior, which reflects the image of their Master as the rising sun is mirrored in the glassy surface of a mountain lake. As Whit-tier writes regarding a departed saint :

"The dear Lord's best interpreters  
Are humble human souls ;  
The gospel of a life like hers  
Is more than books or scrolls.

"From scheme and creed the light goes out,  
The saintly fact survives ;  
The blessed Master none can doubt,  
Revealed in holy lives."

It is regarding the *local Church*, then, that we pursue the inquiry whether it is desirable that it should be endowed. Should large sums of money be bestowed for the purpose of securing to the Church a perennial revenue to be applied to its work and worship ? It seems to me this depends upon the character of its environment. If a church is imbedded in a community which is predominantly Christian in its spirit, where there exists an underlying consciousness that is responsive and congenial to evangelical truth, then there may be no need of endowment. The ordinary appliances of religion—the worship, the preaching, and the Sunday-school—will suffice ; and enough decent, church-going people will naturally flow in to meet the expenses of the establishment. If, however, the Church is situated in a population the inner consciousness of which is heathenish and antagonistic to the Gospel, then will spring up the necessity of an endowment. The best appliances are requisite in the way of preaching, architecture, and music, because the Church is confronted with the difficult task of impressing and attracting those who are essentially indifferent, and even hostile. But it is so poor that it cannot meet the expenses of such appliances. And then the forces that converge against it are so tremendous that, besides paying its ordinary current expenses, it must use at least an equal sum upon its field in aggressive work, or else it will be sure to go to the wall. Without endowment its outlook becomes hopeless.

It seems, then, that there are two different kinds of field open for church work. There are places where the prevailing social influences are favorable to the building up of evangelical churches. If you have a good minister, attractive music, and stately architecture, the church seems to grow itself. Real estate keeps appreciating, decent and respectable church-going people come streaming into the neighborhood, and they naturally find their way into the sacred edifices that have been prepared for their use. The minister preaches two good sermons on Sunday, delivers his midweek address, performs his round of faithful pastoral visitation, and at the end of a year or two rejoices to see his pews comfortably full. He fancies perhaps that he does it all. But he is like a boy rowing down stream. The oars are reinforced by the steady, swift current. If