

vital Christianity. When placed side by side with men of such faith and devotedness, we may well take to ourselves shame and confusion of face, because we come so far short of their martyr-spirit and holy zeal.

If Christian men and women, speaking our language, and enjoying all the advantages of Christian lands, are willing to go and work and die for Jesus in heathen lands, what ought you to do for Him in your different spheres of life? What will you do for Christ in the family circle?—What will you do for Him in your calls of friendship; at the next dinner party or social evening meeting? When asked to attend a ball will you say, "I am Christ's and cannot go?" What will you do for Christ, ye who are men of business?—What will you do for him in the counting-house to-morrow? Will you conduct your business, with the Christian motto ever before your mind's eye, "For me to live is Christ?" Will you, working young men and women, live for Christ in the warehouse, shop, and kitchen? Will you wear "Holiness to the Lord" on your foreheads by acting and speaking as if your Lord Jesus were standing by your side? What efforts will any of you put forth for Christ in the market place, "the streets and lanes of the city," in your homes, in Sunday-schools, in the railway carriage, or wherever you are? I pray God that all of you, old and young, were thrust forth of the Holy Ghost to testify of Christ.

I fear there are many amongst us to whom Jesus would have to say, as He said to the Church of Ephesus, "I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy *first love*. Remember, therefore, from whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the *first works*." Oh, that the Lord would now give fresh life, and send back into his vineyard some of you who many years ago worked with much apparent zeal for Christ. You have left your *first love*, and, as a consequence, you have left your *first works*. Such backsliders as you would God receive back if you would only return as conscious, broken-hearted penitents. His own gracious words to such is, "Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings." Oh, that you would bethink you of the sweet experience you had of Jesus, and the zeal

with which you performed the "*first works*" of your "*first love*" in other and fresher days, then surely you would repent and return, and do your *first works*" with former love and devotedness, and if you did so, you would hear the life-giving voice of Jesus, whispering in your heart His own precious loving words, "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

When some of you were young, when you had only a salary in some office, and none of the world's riches, you were enthusiastic in Christ's cause. But now you have married, succeeded in business, prospered and increased in riches, you have grown colder and less zealous for the world-rejected Jesus. Oh, how hardly shall they that have riches enter the kingdom of God! You who have comfortable houses, plenty of credit, a large balance at the banker's, take heed lest your souls be injured and Jesus be neglected, or less fervently loved. Oh, you prosperous men, so regular in your church-attendance, and at your post as Sabbath-school teachers, in office in the church it may be, your name figuring on almost every subscription list for Christian and benevolent purposes, and who are so ready to entertain Christ's servants, have not some of you grown cold in your love to Jesus? and although you work, and work, and work, your labours are not instinct with vitality, nor are they productive of those spiritual results which gladdened you in times gone by. "You sow much, but bring in little" for Jesus, because you have been too much occupied with thoughts of your "own things," and the world has chilled your once burning love to Him. We may have society after society, and their coffers may teem with gold and silver; we may have noblemen as presidents and chairmen of their annual meetings, with influential committees to boot; but if after all they are mainly upheld by backsliders like you, who have left their first love, may it not be feared that God will "blow upon" all their efforts, and say in righteous displeasure, "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? Who hath required this at your hand? Bring no more vain oblations."

Dear Friends,—I am persuaded that