

has been termed the "marching orders" of the Christian Army. It bade her to spread the spiritual kingdom of CHRIST throughout the whole wide world, to bring all humankind into discipleship and obedience to Him. No other duty, however urgent, can dispense with this primary obligation. Not the interests of the Church at home, nor the need to make efficient her already professed soldiers, nor the work of raising the ideal of Christian life and character: none of these may be neglected, yet none of them must be allowed to stand in the way of the performance of the Church's first duty, that of spreading the spiritual kingdom and of subduing the world to CHRIST.

Nevertheless, after nearly nineteen centuries of Christianity, the world is not christianised. Whole races are still outside its pale. There are still vast tracts of continent which the feet of Christian teachers have never trodden, where the Name of CHRIST has never been heard. And besides this, sad experience has shown that there exists a real danger of the wholesale lapse into unbelief of the emigrants from Christian lands into countries in process of settlement, unless the life of Christianity is kept up by a supply to them of the means of grace from their mother country.

We naturally ask what is the reason of the slow increase of CHRIST's Realm.

The answer will be found if we think of a great Principle of the Divine Government. God has, if we may venture to say it, imposed upon Himself a rule that man must feel a want before He will supply it; that it *cannot* be supplied until it is felt. There are natural analogies which illustrate this Principle. God supplies His creatures with food, but as a matter of fact they do not seek food until they feel hunger. It is true of spiritual things: "Open thy mouth wide, and I shall fill it." "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for *they* shall be filled."

Now there is a solidarity about the Christian Church which makes this realisation of want an essential condition of successful missionary work. As a man must feel and realise with his mind his hunger before he will transmit the needful physical energy to his hands to supply him with food, so the Church must realise in her central being the want of the world's evangelisation, or she will not transmit the needful spiritual energy to her organs, the actual missionaries, for their work to be wholly successful. Looking back on Church history, we find that she was for many centuries lamentably deficient in any yearning desire for spiritual conquest outside her territory—in other words, she was deficient in the *missionary spirit*; and no wonder if her missionary efforts have been at best only half successful, and sometimes wholly failures.

We may not unreasonably call our home parishes the centre and heart of our portion of the Catholic Church. Here we are in the full light of the Gospel Revelation, here the Christian life beats strongly and warmly, the influences of sacramental grace are circulating freely and fully, the malign power of the Evil One is kept at bay and minimised by the spiritual presence of the INCARNATE, the ministers of