

On this question we do not propose to enter at present. We would simply call attention to this fact, that supposing the Associations were to abandon this department of usefulness, which, however, has great attractions for young men; and to leave it in the hands of the ordained ministry of the evangelical Churches, they would still have to their hands a large and legitimate sphere in which they could serve God, their generation, and the Church. The field of *private* and *personal* effort for Christ is large enough to satisfy the ambition of an angel; and it is a field that is perhaps too much neglected in days when an epidemic of public talk seizes the members of churches.

"A Litchfield deacon," we are told in the *American Messenger*, "has moved three or four successive times to as many different states, and left in each place a church and a settled minister as the fruits of his own prayers and labors. At the age of eighty, he walks four miles every week to attend a Sabbath-school, and already reaps a rich reward for his fidelity in seeing around him thirteen children and fifty grandchildren, nearly all of whom are prosperous and pious."

"An old writer," says Rev. J. G. Pike, "mentions the case of a pious man who, by his zeal in conversing with his neighbors and acquaintances in their shops or their fields, had been the instrument, in the hands of God, of converting thirty or forty persons.

"Harlan Page, immediately after his conversion, felt that he must labor for souls. He did so. He was unceasing in his efforts, and glorious were the results of his labors. Upon his death-bed he said, 'I know it is all of God's grace, and nothing that I have done; but I think I have evidence that more than one hundred souls have been converted to God through my instrumentality.'"

"Much of the evangelistic labor of the present day is of this character. Personal appeals made to the heart and conscience, are more effective, in many instances, than the most able and eloquent sermons. And this is a field, too, in which every Christian, who is alive to the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, may labor with the assurance of success. All cannot preach the gospel from the pulpit, but all can labor with untiring zeal in the more private walks of life, and do much for the glory of God and the salvation of souls."

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