

scattered without a shepherd, and as He sent His disciples forth, two and two, exhorted them to "pray to the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth labourers into His harvest." The work of man's restoration is spiritual. His conversion and regeneration is from above; it is a new creation: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." "Your heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him." Our Lord Himself prayed for effect to follow the word: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

How frequently do the Apostolic writings bear witness to the anxiety for prayers in behalf of the work of grace. "Continue in prayer; withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds, that I may make it manifest as I ought to speak." "Brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified." And not only for spiritual success, but for protection; for it is added, "and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men." Further, we know that when St. Peter was in prison for the truth's sake, "prayer was made without ceasing of the Church unto God for him."

I am fully justified then, brethren, by such considerations in addressing to you to-day this scriptural and necessary exhortation, "Brethren, pray for us." Scriptural I have shown it to be—necessary indeed it is; for if the Saviour Himself and inspired Apostles demanded it for their work, how much more must we need it now! "Brethren, pray for us." We go forth to proclaim the Gospel tidings, to minister to the souls of men of varied race and tongue the manifold grace of God. We go from the bosom of the Church of England, which our God has blest for so many generations, to reproduce, in another soil, what heavenly mercy has planted and fostered here. We carry forth the blessed institutions of the Church, and the holy doctrines we have received. With the open Bible we are sent to make Christ known in far distant lands, as He