

commend us, and so they do indeed. Moreover, if a man stand much in repeating such things to his hearers, it hath some show of covetousness. Notwithstanding, men must be admonished hereof, that they may know that they ought to yield unto their pastors both reverence and a necessary living. Our Saviour Christ teacheth the same thing in the tenth of Luke. "Eating and drinking such things as they have; for the labourer is worthy of his reward." And Paul saith, in another place, "Do ye not know that they which sacrifice in the temple live of the sacrifices; and that they which serve at the altar are partakers of the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained, that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

We need add nothing to these true and solemn words. We ask our readers to ponder most seriously the truth so emphatically expressed. It is particularly appropriate to some portions of the Church; but none of our congregations are above the necessity of being frequently reminded of their duty, and stirred up to work heartily for CHRIST. We confess that we are often cheered and encouraged by recalling the fact that the early Christians and the children of the Reformation needed this sort of teaching as well as our people need it now. We have to inculcate the lesson very often, but this is just what Luther had to do in his day, and what a greater than Luther did by word of mouth, and by Epistle in Galatia and in Corinth. But we are less excusable in the sight of God than any generation that has gone before us—for we have illuminating our path the light and experience of Eighteen Centuries.

MISSIONS IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

PATRICK.

Among the most remarkable missionaries of the Middle Ages were the Celtic races of Britain. How the Gospel reached these races is a question involved in mystery. That it came to them from a tolerably pure source, long before it had been tainted by the worldly power of Rome, is proved by their primitive worship, and by the long controversy which they maintained with the authorities of the Roman Church. They were among the best missionaries of their period, and contrasted with those commissioned by the court of Rome, in the absence of that pomp and circumstance by which the latter in ma-

ny instances sought to overawe the heathen mind, and by the refusal of all compromise with heathen customs or prejudices. Among the most distinguished of them was St. Patrick, the so-called apostle of Ireland. The place of his birth has been disputed, but the weight of evidence appears to be in favour of Kirkpatrick, generally termed Kilpatrick, between the castle of Dumbarton, and the city of Glasgow. The year of his birth was about 387. He was born of Christian parents, and both his father and grandfather held office in the Church. The tradition is, that in his early life he was carried off as a slave to Ireland in one of those wild marauding expeditions, so common in those days, and for centuries afterwards. He was removed to Antrim, and there had to endure many hardships, tending his master's flocks, wandering over the bleak mountains, often drenched with rain, or numbed by the wintry cold. The good seed had been sown in his youth, and his sufferings now tended only to deepen its root and strengthen its growth, as he found his consolation in the truths of religion. He made himself acquainted with the language of the people, and learned their habits and modes of life. After six years he escaped, and returned to his father's house. He endured a second short captivity, but returned home again. Instead of being incensed against his captors and oppressors, he longed to be made the means of their conversion to the Christian faith. Meditating on this desire, he was visited by a dream, in which one appeared inviting him to go over to the help of Ireland. He soon after went, accompanied by a few friends of kindred spirit, and encountered many perils, being often in danger even of his life; but persevered, attracted some of the chiefs by his gentleness of manner, his striking appearance, and his dignity of bearing; and having thus removed obstacles, began with unceasing diligence to instruct the people, preaching the Word, collecting assemblies in the open air, to whom he read the Scriptures, and explained their contents, and proclaiming Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of men. He was careful to search out a native ministry, and to establish seminaries and schools for their proper instruction. As his influence advanced, he became the bold denouncer of those lawless marauding expeditions, from which he had himself suffered. He at length died at a good old age, having raised up a complete ecclesiastical machinery, and left the greater part of Ireland attached to the Christian faith.

COLUMBA.

The most prominent of the Celtic missionaries, in the age succeeding that of St. Patrick, was Columba, born among the wildest of the Donegal mountains, at Gartán, in