

congregation striving together for the Faith of the Gospel? Have you taken pains to ascertain that Faith, to understand it with your minds, to embrace it with your hearts, to live it in your lives? Do you confer together about the interests of the Kingdom of God? Do you combine and organize, and strive together, each one doing his best—not merely in giving, but in working to extend and to defend the Kingdom? Is that the picture, or do you just fold your hands, and leave all to the Parson; go to church, perhaps, once on a Sunday; perhaps criticise the sermon; perhaps go to sleep. Never pray for the clergyman; never read a book in explanations or illustration of the Faith; never speak to a neighbor about the interests or the claims of the Church, well content to leave him alone, if he will leave you alone—is that the picture? And then you wonder that the clergy don't attract large congregation, that the Church does not succeed. The loftiest commendation that Newman ever gave of his fellow-workers in the Tractarian Movement was, that they were "brimful of schemes for the Church's good." Is not that just what is lacking in most people's lives? They are brimful of schemes for their own good—for the good of their children—for the good of society—but for the Church of Christ never a thought or a plan or care. Brethren, to be indifferent about the truth, to be inactive in the cause of Christ, to leave things to take their own course, not to use the best thought and judgment and energy and skill that we have, not to stand fast, not to be striving together for the Faith of the Gospel, is to be a traitor to our Captain and our King, and to prove ourselves unworthy of our privileges and of Him. The kingdom of God was meant to be a kingdom of workers, as it exists in most of our parishes it is a kingdom of drones. What are you doing? I ask you, one and all, that you can think of as a striving together for the Faith of the Gospel, what are you doing to extend the Truth, to defend the Faith to uphold the Kingdom? What would you think of an army whose generals and colonels and captains were the only men that ever tried to learn their drill, that bore arms, or fired a shot in the day-battle! would you be surprised at their failure, at their utter defeat?

Soldiers of Christ arise,
 And put your armour on,
 Strong in the strength which God supplies
 Through His Eternal Son.

