

WORK AND WAIT.

A husbandman, who for many years Had ploughed his fields and sown in tears, Grew weary with his doubts and fears. "I toil in vain! These rocks and sands Will yield no harvest to my hands; The best seeds rot in barren lands. "My drooping vine is withering; Nor promised grapes its blossoms bring, No birds among its branches sing. "My flock is dying on the plain; The heavens are brass—they yield no rain, The earth is iron—I toil in vain!" While yet he spake, a breath had stirred His drooping vine, like a wing of bird, And from its branches a voice he heard: "The germs and fruit of life must be Forever hid in mystery, Yet none can toil in vain for Me. "A mightier hand more skilled than thine, Must hang the cluster on the vine, And make the fields with harvest shine. "Man can but work; God can create; But they who work, and watch, and wait, Have their reward, though it come late "Look up to heaven! behold and hear The clouds and thunders in thine ear— An answer to thy doubts and fears." He looked, and lo! a cloud-draped car, With trailing smoke and flames afar, Was rushing to a distant star. And every thirsty flock and plain Was rising up to meet the rain That came to clothe the fields with grain. And on the clouds he saw again The covenant of God with men, Rewritten with his rainbow pen: "Seed-time and harvest shall not fail, And though the gates of hell assail, My truth and promise shall prevail."

Visitor Pulpit.

OUR DEBT TO CHRIST.

A SERMON PREACHED AT CAMBERWELL, LONDON, ON SUNDAY, APRIL 24th, 1881, ON BEHALF OF THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY, BY REV. J. E. CRACKNELL, OF YORK TOWN, SURREY.

"I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."—Rom. 1: 14, 15.

The expression in the first of these verses, is in itself remarkable, "I am debtor;" we reckon ourselves debtors to those from whom we receive favors. The apostle had received no favors from the civilized Greeks, and certainly none from the rude barbarians; why then was he their debtor? He had never visited Rome, how should he owe anything to its inhabitants? He considered that whatever service he could render them was simply a debt due them. By the law of love, the possession of what another needs, places us under an obligation, and makes us his debtor. We see this carried out in daily life, in deeds of benevolence, and services of love. Another is suffering from a disease for which you possess a remedy; you owe it him. Paul felt that the world needed the gospel. He could not convert them, but he could instrumentally bless them, by the publication of the truth which had proved the power of God in his own soul.

We read in Christ's miracle, He gave of the loaves to his disciples and the disciples to the multitude. They received in order that they might give. Christ still feeds the famishing world by means of his church. The supernaturally given Bread of Life is to be carried over the world in accordance with the ordinary laws by which all other truth is diffused. Of the Church of the Thessalonians we read, "our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Ghost and in much assurance," and then follows, "from you sounded out the word of the Lord." It came unto them, and then came out from them. This is the Divine method. The truth it behoves us all to lay to heart is, that Christian people are Christ's instruments for effecting the realization of the purposes of his death. What we could not do, Christ has accomplished. "I have trodden the wine-press alone." No human agency co-operating there. By Christ alone is brought to us, and is finished for us, an eternal redemption. This having been done by the solitary work of Christ, a new power was introduced into the world, and human agency is henceforth called into operation to diffuse it. The servants at Cana drew the wine which he had made, and the disciples at the sea of Tiberias distributed the bread he had blessed and broken. The service we can render others, is our privilege to employ; possessing the means constitute us their debtors. Further to the question, why did the apostle consider himself debtor to those who were not only strangers, but in many places were absolutely hostile to him? We reply, the reason is obvious: "He owes a debt to Christ." Once full of enmity to the person and to the cause of Christ; breathing out threatenings and slaughter against his followers,

he had employed his great energies as an enemy of Christ. Yet Christ had met with and mastered him; had humbled his pride and converted his soul, and now his zeal against Christ gave place to inextinguishable ambition to do him honor. Thus rescued, thus blessed, the apostle felt that he owed to Christ his body, his soul, his all. He lived as in sight of Christ, a much loved master, his own God and Saviour; he could no longer live to himself, but must live to him who loved him and had given himself for him. He felt the obligation ever resting upon him of persevering under all circumstances and amidst every peril in the ministry assigned him by his Lord; and when he thought of what he owed to Christ, he said, "I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, both to the wise and the unwise." "We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Christ's sake."

Let us reflect upon this fact, that in the self-denying life which the apostle lived, he considered it a simple debt which he owed to his fellow men, because he owed it to Christ. Every one who has received similar favors, owes to Christ a similar debt. Quickened by the same grace, pardoned by the same mercy, accepted through the same sacrifice, we may well put the question, "how much owest thou unto thy Lord?" and if debtors to Christ as Paul was, we are no less debtors to our fellow creatures; we owe to them the same unwearied benevolence, the same self-denying exertion, the same forgiveness of injuries, the same patient continuance in well-doing. This shows the worth of the religion of Christ. What a happy place this world would be, if all men were followers of Christ, and all felt the obligations under which discipleship placed them. Let us remember that if we reach heaven it will be because Christ has died for us. Are our sins forgiven, his blood alone has cleansed. We owe him all the past; also, the precious promises that cheer us in the present; and the glorious hopes concerning the future that fill our souls, the heaven that we see glowing in the distance. Experiencing the joys of redeeming love, realizing what we owe to Christ, we shall feel with the apostles our indebtedness to our fellow creatures. We now proceed to consider the way the apostles proposed in part to pay the debt. "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are at Rome also." It would be a slight thing for any man placed at a distance from the metropolis, to say, "I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are in London," because it is an easy thing to preach the gospel to a number who are willing to listen to it. But it was a very different thing indeed, to preach the gospel at Rome in the time of the apostle, and when he wrote these words he well knew what Rome was. True, there was much to gratify the ambitious, and to attract the lover of art, who might wish from feelings of curiosity to visit the capital; to tread the Forum, to gaze upon the gorgeous palaces of the Caesars, and to behold those magnificent buildings which made Rome the mistress of the world. The apostle, however, thought of far different things in connection with the capital. He knew he was to visit it to proclaim, that idolatry was a lie; that there was but "one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." He was to preach in that capital the doctrines which excites the enmity of the proud, and the ridicule of the contemptuous; which while it spares no vices, declares men can be saved by no virtues; but must look for salvation simply to the righteousness that God has provided for sinners in his Son. The apostle well knew that there was a populace in Rome ready to tear him in pieces, that at the head of that capital was one whose vices had disgraced human nature; who was the abandoned companion of the lowest, and most depraved; who when he had fired his own capital, charged the abominable crime on the innocent Christians, thousands of whom were tortured and put to the most cruel death. Paul well knew that the tyrant would make a merit of destroying him, yet with these facts in view, he calmly declared, "I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also." It sometimes happens that those who would not dread peril shrink from shame. Many have displayed physical courage, who were yet afraid of the laugh of the fool; but Paul knew no such shame or fear. He was prepared to suffer, and he was prepared to be despised; he could say, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ," why? because he had both experienced and witnessed its power. He could point to the distressed who had been consoled by its promises, the morally and spiritually dead who had by it been quickened, saved and sanctified.

Let us remember that the gospel is to-day the very same that it was then. If the apostle felt that he could not be engaged in a nobler work, or one more worth of his best exertions than that of making Christ known to his fellow men, then every minister of Christ now may most justly triumph in the same consciousness, and rejoice in the same privilege. And that which a minister justly feels, a disciple of Christ should feel no less. Let us therefore, all ask ourselves how far we have attained this consciousness of the debt which we owe to Christ, and this appreciation of Christ's gospel. Are we willing in any society, when the opportunity is presented, to speak for Christ; are we seeking by our lives to preach Christ; and if we cannot ourselves bear the gospel message to distant lands, are we endeavoring by all the power of sympathy and prayer, to help those who are engaged in this glorious work. Let our sympathy ever be of the most practical kind, then may we consistently pray, "Thy kingdom come." Let us seek to the full extent of our ability, to help forward any society that we feel is doing the Lord's work. With confidence I appeal to-day, on this ground, on behalf of the funds of the "Baptist Missionary Society," and will now give a few particulars of the work in which they are engaged.

"THE NEED OF MORE MISSIONARIES IN CHINA." "The population of China at a moderate estimate may be placed at 300,000,000. On the supposition that the existing missionary laborers along the whole sea-coast and some points in the interior, lightly touch 100,000,000 of people, it leaves 200,000,000 of the population as yet utterly unreached by any evangelizing agency. Here is a population equal to the whole estimated population of Africa. This vast multitude of people is living under a regularly established Government with which Western nations have diplomatic and treaty relations. They have a knowledge of all the arts and manufactures connected with civilized life; they have a written language which is common to the population of all the provinces, and a spoken dialect which is understood over the Northern half of the empire. The climate is, in all parts of the land, to a wonderful degree salubrious to the European constitution. The country is everywhere threaded by navigable streams and canals, and these are traversed everywhere by native boats, interchanging the various commodities and products of the country, so that it is possible to reach every part of the country."

The Baptist Missionary Society have in China three missionaries, Brethren Richards, Jones, and Kitts, but "what are they among so many." They are earnest and devoted brethren, and the number of conversions in China, having regard to the agency employed, is larger than in any other country. They write, saying "we must have help or our efforts must be futile, and fitfulness and lack of continuity, is fatal to spiritual agriculture. At the very lowest estimate each of us wants a colleague."

BAPTISM AT SIMLA. The following interesting account is taken from the columns of the Lucknow Witness: "An interesting ceremony took place in the Baptist chapel here on Saturday evening last, when five hillmen and four Punjabees were admitted into the visible Church of Christ by the rite of baptism. As usual, there was a very good gathering of Europeans and natives on the occasion. The service, which commenced at 8 p. m., was conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Goolzar Shah. The proceedings were opened by the singing of hymn and a prayer, after which Mr. Shah gave a brief account of the conversion of the nine persons. In doing so, he did that of the different departments of the mission work, viz., schools, bazaar, village preaching, preaching to servants, distribution of books and tracts, Sabbath services, and itinerant preaching, nothing appeared to have been so successful as the last. During the last ten of our evangelist and colporteurs they sited all the brethren in different villages several of whom accompanied them to Simla and districts they visited, and helped them in singing and preaching the Gospel, and the result of the united efforts of these brethren has been very encouraging, as the nine persons whose names about to be baptized have been brought to the feet of Jesus through the instrumentality."

With regard to India, our honored brother the Rev. George Key, writing from Calcutta only a few weeks ago, says: "In the twenty-four years that I have passed since I first came to Ind, I have never seen such a spirit of helpfulness and faith among the missionary workers of all denominations as there is now. The native Christians, especially in Calcutta, are waking up and becoming conscious of power, and becoming alive to their responsibilities and privileges. The meeting of the Calcutta Missionary Conference last night, was one of almost interesting and cheering I have attended. It would have gratified me, I am sure, if you could have been here. I wished that the whole Church could have heard what was said of the progress of our work, and the many reactions that the time is drawing near in India shall indeed be specially blessed. "I am glad to hear that there are many young men in our colleges who think about India. I do hope and pray that God may send them to help us in this joyful harvest time which is drawing near, and in the still wider sowing which is yet to be done. We want laborers, but earnest men who can work—men faith and prayer. Send them soon, as many of them, I pray you, my brother."

GOOD TIDINGS FROM DEL. Rev. James Smith, of Del. writes: "We have some cases of recent encouragement. A little time, (a few months) came a distance of more than fifty miles for baptism. They heard the Gospel during our cold-weather itinerancies, and they state that nurses want only instruction in order to profess-

ing Christianity. I supplied them with some elementary books; but, with a deficit of more than £50, we cannot send them a teacher. I have had two letters from them since they were here, and they are very hopeful. We had a most interesting day at Shahdura last month. There were eleven men received by the church, and waiting for baptism. Mr. Guyton and myself, with sundry brethren and sisters, went early, and had a long service in the chapel; then we went to a garden house, a mile distant, where there is a convenient tank, and in the presence of about two hundred people, Mr. Guyton immersed the candidates. There are ten more under instruction, and as soon as the church sees fit to receive them, they will be baptized. We came from the garden back to Shahdura by road, and, with the native instruments of music, sang all the way. The people are astonished to see Christianity coming out of hidden corners into the daylight, and I hope this will tend in every way to give the people confidence, and induce secret disciples to confess Christ. To see professors of the colleges, doctors, lawyers, and merchants, with men of all classes, uniting in a public Christian procession through the streets of Calcutta was to me a most wonderful thing."

GOOD NEWS FROM GENOA. In a recent letter, Signor Jahier writes me as follows:—

"I gird myself to give you some news, which will, I am sure, give you great joy. You know that up to the present there has been no church established in connection with our congregation. It is true that we broke bread on the Lord's day, but those who did so were members of other churches. Well, the foundations of the Christian Apostolic Church of Genoa were laid last Sunday. There were fifteen who bore witness by word of mouth, but I judged it prudent not to admit them all to communion, because some of them had not sufficient knowledge of the Scriptures, have frequented our meetings for only six or seven months. Those, however, whenever I baptized had attended the services almost from the day that our hall was opened, and having been here nearly nine months, I have known them all that time, and having instructed them as catechumens. Early in the morning of Sunday last, they testified of their faith, and asked to be recognized as brethren in Christ. Feeling that I could no longer withhold from them the privileges of the accounts of their conversion, which were very consoling, and then, acting according to the teaching of St. Peter, who says that the disciples should first repent and then be baptized (Acts ii. 38), we all went down to a bathing establishment on the sea-shore, called the "witch." There each one had his own cabin for dressing. I then immersed them, and they returned together to their cabins.

"The service being concluded, we went to the hall, to thank God for what he had done, and to ask Him to do still more in the future, by bringing many souls to Himself. We then all went to our homes, to return again at eleven o'clock to the Communion service. After the sermon the bread and wine were passed round to the new members, who, I am sure, we gathered together in the name of the Lord Jesus, and with a sincere desire to commemorate His precious death.

It were easy to multiply these proofs that God is with our brethren and that the Gospel is still the power of God unto salvation.

Pray for our Missionaries. I have sometimes heard them spoken of as though they were seeking their own, rather than the glory of Christ and the good of their fellows, as the proof of the earnest spirit by which some of our brethren are distinguished I have the following extract from a letter written by a brother laboring in Christ.

"Don't think we are not in earnest. Many times during the last month I have felt as if I could have gone and knelt down to our Committee to take up China on a larger, vaster, and truer scale—ay, when I felt I could have wept before you, that you might be really convinced that we felt, most deeply, most overwhelmingly, what we wrote and that what we write is but the reflection of feelings that loneliness and weariness seem not in anywise to deaden after years and years of work.

The Committee can only respond to these appeals in proportion as you place the means at their disposal. The Society wholly supports sixty-eight Missionaries and partially supports fourteen. There are almost 241 Evangelists besides assistant Missionaries. It is a proof of progress that there are now fifty-seven Pastors of self-supporting Churches. The Gross receipts for the year ending March 1880 were £50,351,11s.7d. The Gross expenditure £47,214,2s.8d., exclusive of what is raised and expended at Mission Stations. This year the receipts are less and the expenditure more. Help is therefore most urgently needed—freely we have received freely give.

SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

When you commence your school this spring, if you will write us a postal card, we will furnish you with sample copies of the best, cheapest, and most interesting Sunday-school papers and Lesson Helps published, free of charge. Remember, you can get everything you need for your school by writing to

VISITOR OFFICE, ST. JOHN, N. B.

ELLIOTT'S HOTEL, 28 & 32 Germain Street, (one door north of Country Market.) E. W. ELLIOTT, Proprietor.

1881. My Stock is now complete; I have recently added 527 Packages Furniture; 41 crates Crockery; 72 packages Lamps, Lamp Stools and Table Glassware; 25 packages Merchandise, containing Silverware, Household Hardware and Fancy Goods. I am now manufacturing Parlor Suites, Bedroom Suites, Chairs and Mattresses and selling them cheap. 600 Chairs received in the "white." We are finishing them up and can make prices below every other store. TO CARLETON COUNTY READERS. I have opened a Branch Store in Connell's Block, Woodstock, where may be seen the only complete stock of House Furnishing Goods ever opened in the County. Furniture suitable for Parlor, Chamber, Dining Room, Hall or Kitchen; Crockery of all kinds imported direct from Staffordshire; Table cutlery, Bohemian Vases, Silver Ware, Majolica, Lamps Table Glass Ware, New Silver Jewelry, Japanese Fan Goods and a thousand and one" fancy and useful articles suitable for Christmas, Birthday or Bridal presents. JAS. G. McNALLY, Opposite City Hall, Fredericton, and Connell's Block, Woodstock. Nov. 23rd 1880.

EXHIBITION 1880. St. John, N. B.

CRAWFORD & BELL, 81 GERMAIN STREET. Received Highest Award for the Best Sewing Machine for Family and General use. Also, Diploma for the Best Assortment of Sewing Machines.

THE above were the ONLY AWARDS offered for SEWING MACHINES at the Exhibition in St. John, N. B., 1880. Both being awarded to Crawford & Bell for the superiority of their machines over the other competitors. And for the "BEST ASSORTMENT." If you want to buy the Best SEWING MACHINE, Call at 81 Germain Street, The largest assortment of First Class Sewing Machine.

At 81 Germain Street. Great Reduction in Price during the Holidays. CRAWFORD & BELL, 81 Germain St., St. John, N. B. All kinds of Sewing Machines repaired.

PEPPER'S QUININE AND IRON TONIC. It rouses and develops the nervous energies, enriches the blood, promotes appetite, dispels languor and depression, fortifies the digestive organs. It is a specific remedy for neuralgia, acute indigestion, fevers of every kind, chest affections, and in wasting diseases, scrofulous tendencies, &c. The whole frame is greatly invigorated by Pepper's Tonic, the mental facilities brightened, the constitution greatly strengthened, and a return to robust health certain. Bottles, 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., next size, 11s. Sold by Chemists every where. The name of J. Pepper Bedford Laboratory, London, must be on the label. There is no tonic so certain in effect as Pepper's Quinine and Iron. It is strongly recommended to residents in India and the Colonies, and should always be kept ready for use in every case of fever or febrile condition, feebly.

LOCKER'S SULPHUR HAIR RESTORER. It will darken grey hair, and in a few days completely bring back the natural colour. The effect is superior to that produced by any instantaneous dye, and does not injure the skin. Large bottles, 1s. 6d.—Locker's is equal to the most expensive hair restorer.

TARAXACUM AND PODOPHYLLIN. Prepared only by J. Pepper, London. This fluid combination, extracted from medical roots, is now used instead of blue pill and cathartic for the cure of dyspepsia, biliousness and all symptoms of congestion of the liver, which are generally pain beneath the shoulders, headache, drowsiness, no appetite, furred tongue, disagreeable taste in the morning, sickness, distension of the stomach, and feeling of general depression. It sets the sluggish liver in motion, very slightly acts on bowels, giving a sense of health and comfort within 24 hours. It is the safest medicine. Taraxacum and Podophyllin is a fluid made only by J. PEPPER, Bedford Laboratory, London, whose name is on every label. Bottles, 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. Sold by all Chemists. A most valuable and essential medicine for India, Australia, the Cape, and Colonies generally. feblly

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ROSES. And RARE PLANTS for \$1. Our Greenhouses (covering 2 acres in Glass) are the largest in America. Peter Henderson & Co., 35 Cortlandt St., New York.

Str. Soulanges. WILL LEAVE INDIANTOWN On the following days, viz: TUESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY AT 10 O'CLOCK, A. M. Returning will leave COLE'S ISLAND, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY AT 6.30 O'CLOCK, A. M. CARL & VAUGHN, Agents, Indiantown, St. John, April 12, 1881.

CUSTOM TAILORING. I have just received and have now open inspection my spring stock of CLOTHES, in which will be found the latest patterns ENGLISH, SCOTCH, and CANADIAN Tweeds TROUSERINGS, SUITINGS, DIAGONALS AND FANCY WORSTED COATINGS, All of which will be made to order in the LATEST STYLES. At the Lowest Possible Prices. AND A Perfect Fit Guaranteed. Also in Stock a full line of Gents' Furnishing Goods HATS, CAPS, TRUNKS, VALISES, &c., &c., &c. At less than City Prices. C. B. Pidgeon, Main Street, INDIANTOWN.

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