

HE LEADS US ON.

He leads us on By paths we did not know, Upward He leads us, though our steps be slow, Though oft we faint and falter on the way, Though storms and darkness oft obscure the day, Yet when the clouds are gone We know He leads us on.

He leads us on Through all the quiet years; Past all our dreamland hopes, and doubts, and fears, He guides our steps. Through all the tangled maze Of sin, of sorrow, and of clouded days We know His will is done; And still He leads us on.

And He, at last, After the weary strife, After the restless fever we call life, After the dreariness, the aching pain, The wayward struggles which have proved in vain, After our toils are past Will give us rest at last.—Ex.

GREAT WORKS.

A Sermon Preached before the N. S. Eastern Baptist Association at Truro, July 9th, 1883.

BY REV. D. A. STEELE.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."—John xiv. 12.

The works of the Master were exceptionally great. Take them altogether they were such as had not been performed by the prophets of the Jewish race. Moreover, in the case of Moses, Elijah, and Elisha, the notably illustrious wonder-workers, the power had never been claimed by the prophet. Jehovah had wrought through his servant. At the command of his God Moses stretched out his rod, and the waters rolled over the Egyptians. Elijah prayed, and God sent fire from heaven to burn the wood and lick up the water. But Jesus invariably did the work Himself. "do the work." "I cast out devils." "Lazarus, come forth." "I say unto thee, arise." There is no wonder-working rod, no long continued supplication for power; He had it. "In Him dwelt all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

This declaration is all the more surprising, then. "My miracles are exceptional; they are wrought by the direct authority of Deity, and yet my disciples shall do these very works, yea, and greater."

We have here the key which opens a great gate. Let us open it and behold. Our interpretation is to be found in the events following the Resurrection, and linked in with these, in the progress and triumphs of Christianity. We need not, perhaps, do more than point to the fact that the disciples did the same specific things which Jesus indicated when He said, "The works that I do, shall he do also." Wherever the new order of things penetrated the sick were healed, demons were cast out, the dead were raised, See the Acts of the Apostles everywhere. Nor need we stop to consider whether the gift of speaking with other tongues, and their interpretation, was included in this declaration. Most likely they were. But these, as the apostle Paul tells us, were to cease. It is to the permanent, the abiding elements of the gospel that we are chiefly to address ourselves, as exhibited in the whole progress of Christianity. The sayings of our Lord are, it seems to us, to be largely interpreted in the light of history.

1. THE OPERATIONS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE WORLD INVOLVE A HIGHER ORDER OF PROCEDURE THAN THE WORKING OF MIRACLES. 1. Immediately the words were verified. Christianity was bound in its swaddling-clothes. In was tongue-tied—Scarcely had the ascension taken place when it sprang forth a strong armed man. The Holy Spirit descended, and there were the audible and visible tokens of His presence. There was the Pentecostal prophecy in the flaming tongues that the disciples should speak with new powers of utterance, winning the obedience of the people, "opening their eyes, and turning them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God." This sort of blessing ranges itself, in any moral estimate, far beyond that of a merely physical demonstration of power. The salvation of a soul is a greater work than the creation of a loaf of bread to feed him with.

2. The organizing of Christianity by the first preachers, or more specifi-

cally, by the apostles, is another illustration of our Lord's words. The genius for organization is secular affairs is confessedly of a high order. Behold, then, the first-builders laying the foundation. How simple, yet how strong and symmetrical was the form of the New Testament churches! The apostles preached, the people believed, accepted Jesus as the Messiah, were baptized, and formed into compact bodies, with a distinctive head and subordinate officers for each church. "They appointed for them elders in every church," (Acts xiv. 23; Titus i. 5). The apostolic letters were written to the churches, "with their bishops and deacons," (Phil. i. 1). I believe if the Saviour stood here to-day He would give us His assent in this paraphrase of His words: "Yes, in the founding and disciplining of these churches on New Testament principles all over the world, in China, in India, in Burma, in England, and in America, in the ingathering of the converts, and indoctrinating and marshaling them for effective work, I recognize more important doings, more substantial results than in my own wonder works of healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and raising the dead." If this seem to you, my brethren, far-fetched, or bordering on audacity, remember who has started the comparison, my Lord, not I.

3. The Infinite Moral force of the Gospel may be regarded as another illustration. Wherever Christianity has gone it has always been followed by the same great results. It has first subdued the sinners, then it has energized the nation, lifted it up into a new life, and given it a higher form of civilization. Like as in chemical processes, it has newly arranged the various particles, fusing the whole mass of otherwise chaotic material. Witness the complete transformation of the Sandwich Islands during the present century.

4. In the benevolent spirit induced by Christianity. Everywhere in Christian countries there is the almshouse, the hospital, the infirmary, the institutions for the deaf mute, the blind, the insane. Here is one of the most obvious applications of our Lord's declaration. The age Isaiah foresaw, when the tongue of the dumb should sing, the lame men leap as the hart, the deaf ears be unstopped, stretches onward through all the progress of the new dispensation, from the hour when the author of Christianity commenced His sympathetic operations down to the age when it became impossible that any sufferer would be neglected. In the aid afforded to the suffering thousands, in the instruction imparted to those whose faculties are sealed by nature, we read a fresh commentary on the truth of the text. Christian philanthropy repeats the miracles of Jesus in every generation, and multiplies them a thousandfold.

5. Consecrated Education. We have not to go far out of our way to find another application of the text. The most beneficent influence exercised in connection with Christianity has resulted from the labors of the sons of its great public schools. The universities of the old world are honorably the offspring of Christianity. The colleges of the new are not less so. Turn to your encyclopaedia and you will find that Oxford, Edinburgh, St. Andrew's, Harvard, Yale, and Brown were founded by the gifts of Christ's servants, on specifically Christian principles. From these lamps of learning has radiated much of the light which has illumined the English speaking part of the two continents. While there are works the world could well afford to lose, which have been written by men from these schools, how can we estimate the debt owed by all Christian teachers to the ripe scholarship of Oxford, &c., &c. They find their ablest coadjutors in Bishops Butler and Elliott, Conybeare and Howson, Deans Liddell and Scott, on the other side of the water, and in Jonathan Edwards, Hodge, Shedd, Hackett and Schaff in America. Not to lengthen the list by the names of those in less noted institutions who have contributed their quota to the defence of Christianity, its histories, its exegesis or to its practical application, we but stop to point out the moral rising

fair before us that the literary labors of Christ's servants must be reckoned among the "greater works" contemplated by the Saviour. It is not too much to affirm that the vast works of Christian scholars, requiring each many years of constant labor, the products of the poet, the historian, the translator, the interpreter and the preacher, overreach in merit and in importance the ephemeral manifestations of "signs" or "miracles" wherewith the Messiah was wont to attest and illustrate His mission. The lasting benefit conferred upon the world by the men who have been reared at these universities in translating the Scriptures, the Bible given to the English by Wyckliff, the same Book translated into the German vernacular by Luther, into Hindostani by Carey, and into Burmese by Judson, are perhaps the best attestation of the meaning of our blessed Lord. If the words which he spoke are "spirit and life," if "man is not to live by bread alone, but by every word proceeding out of the mouth of God," then we lay claim to this illustration also. It is a greater thing to translate and to multiply and to circulate the word of life, than to perform the most astounding miracles. Wherever the Bible goes there appear the perpetual wonders of the new dispensation, the blind receive their sight, and the tongue of the dumb breaks forth into jubilant notes, "Come all ye that fear God and I will tell you what He hath done for my soul."

6. But it is in the ordinary workings of Christianity that we have the clearest exhibition of the truth here embodied. (1) This may be seen in the preaching of the gospel, when in demonstration of the spirit, and in the ever-increasing multitudes by this agency gathered into the fold of Christ, compared with the few in His own day, or with the little band who assembled in that upper chamber. Paul indeed tells of five hundred brethren; but let us for a moment think of the tens of thousands gathered in throughout the world during the last year, emphatically the year of grace 1883; the churches in heathen lands swelled by the addition of thousands, the churches in nominally Christian countries, as e.g. Sweden, report 4,500 baptisms, while on our own side of the water, and directly among ourselves, the increase has been exceptionally large. "Greater things," certainly, when we compare the ever-increasing number of the followers of Messiah with those who met with Him on that eventful night. (2). Again, let it be borne in mind that in the general work of the pastorate there is an application which may be overlooked. In the quiet, unostentatious labors of the Teacher. "Lo, I am with you always" is in closest juxtaposition with "teaching them." The "greater works" here are the greatest things of His kingdom, the ideas of doctrine and of practice. The deep things of God's word, the great doctrines which are thus brought before the converts, whether from the pulpit or in the meeting for instruction, the leading them out to survey the mountain ranges of Divine truth, is probably a greater power than to cast out demons. (3). Whenever a Sunday School is fostered is one method of fulfilment. A well-ordered Sabbath School is a better specimen of the genius of Christianity than the power evoking supernatural effects, greater than the shaking off from our hands of venomous beasts, or of drinking deadly poison and walking away alive. Let the laborers in this department of Christian effort be uplifted by the thought that they are engaged in the greater doings which our Lord foreshadowed in this declaration. In the one case a few hundred people are enraptured for a moment, in the other a whole generation are permanently blessed.

Thus concludes our rapid survey of what we conceive our Lord to have meant by these strange words. It may be that we have erred, perhaps we have strained a thought here and there, but our conviction is that if a genius of the right order had fair hold of this passage still more would be wrung from its evident meaning.

II. THE SAVIOUR'S WARRANT FOR SO REMARKABLE A STATEMENT. The reason is because of the new powers

which the Christ should exert by virtue of His being sacrificed, "because I go to the Father." It is not, then, owing primarily to the advance in knowledge of His servants, or to their experience; not to the fresh appliances which the church should discern and utilize from age to age, for example, the printing press, and the common school, factors powerful, but not sufficient to account for the "greater things" of John's gospel. The reason for the splendid successes of the first ministers of our Lord in converting the world is to be found in the power communicated to them by the living Christ. "Because I live ye shall live also," are His words on this same occasion. It is, then, because He is there that we can do these works here. It is because of Jesus permitting and abiding that we can do greater things than He did. Our power is simply spiritual force as given us by Him. Even what it is we know not. More subtle than the electric fluid we cannot reckon it, nor understand it. We simply appropriate it by placing ourselves in a receiving attitude. He bestows like a God, largely, freely, but the law of His kingdom is, "Ask, and it shall be given you." It must be used only in His service for the help of men, and not for own aggrandizement, or for our own glory. He is evermore saying to us: "Do as I did. Work for men and I will clothe you with power from on high. Fear not their faces, pay no heed to their hard sayings. I will bring them to myself, I will cause them to be obedient to the faith. I will glorify the Father by subduing the greatest enemies I have. 'Go ye into all the world, and lo, I am with you.'" One or two words of application.

1. We Christians must do the greater works. We ought not to be content with the commonplace forms of Christian life, not to be satisfied with our usual humdrum ways. Jesus spake these words, not only of apostles, but of all those who should believe in Him. It is, therefore, incumbent on every believer to consider this whole matter. Thus only do we prove ourselves to be His disciples, when we are willing to carry out the intimations of His Word. It is wholly in vain for us to insist that we are New Testament Christians, to affirm that Baptists are nearer the truth than others: All such talk at the merest denominational braggadochio if we do not exceed other bodies in good works. The Master gives us His command: "Do the works!" Convert men! Snatch them out of the fire! Exercise the faith that will remove mountains." We talk a good deal about John the Baptist. Let us remember that, "from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." I do not see why our Methodist brethren should have a monopoly of that text. It belongs of right to us. Let us be importunate; let us arise and do greater things!

Every true servant of God will take the course of action that will result in greater works. Paramount to your own business you will put first the kingdom of God, and labor for its welfare. You are as much bound to do this as your minister is. It is for this you have been brought into the kingdom. I am afraid some of us are quieting our consciences with doing exceedingly little things, not one millionth part of what the Master did, and yet we are to do greater! Are we prepared to accept this idea? If so, how far will it carry us? You will labor. You will make sacrifices. You will give dollars where you now are content to give cents, tens and hundreds where you now give one. There would then be no languishing treasuries in our Boards. I desire to see my brethren and sisters rising up to the full measure of this high standard. We ought to make enlarged donations to our denominational societies. The College should now receive ample funds with which to pay off its indebtedness. The mission treasuries, Home and Foreign, stand in sore need just now. Our aged ministers, laid by from service, should receive more help from those to whom they have dispensed the word of life. In

rest and comfort to the suffering. "Brown's Household Panacea" has no equal for relieving pain, both internal and external. It cures Pain in the Side, Back or Bowels, Sore Throat, Rheumatism, Toothache, Lumbago and any kind of a Pain or Ache. "It will most surely quicken the Blood" and Heal, as its acting power is wonderful. "Brown's Household Panacea," being acknowledged as the great "Elixir" and of double the strength of all other "Elixirs" is a most valuable remedy in every family handy for use when wanted. "As it really is the best remedy in the world for Tramps in the stomach and Pains and Aches of the Bowels, it is for sale by all Druggists at 25 cents a bottle. 12-13

THE AVERAGE BOY. A good-sized lump of maple candy form the material from which we might deduct self-evident conclusions regarding the faculty with which attachments are formed in early life, when the circumstances are all favorable. Among other illustrations we might also particularize the case of the little fellow, who as an infant, to his intelligent maternal relative to make an addition to customary dose of Robinson's Phosphoric Emulsion, suddenly brought the matter to a focus by exclaiming appealingly—"Just gimme one more teaspoonful and I'll be right off to sleep."

Vital Questions. Ask the most eminent physician. Of any school, what is the best thing in the world for quieting and allaying all irritation of the nerves and curing all forms of nervous complaints, giving natural, childlike refreshing sleep always? And they will tell you unhesitatingly "Some form of Hops!"

CHAPTER I. Ask any or all of the most eminent physicians: "What is the best and only remedy that can be relied on to cure all diseases of the kidneys and urinary organs; such as Bright's disease, diabetes, retention or inability to retain urine, and all the diseases and ailments peculiar to Women?" "And they will tell you explicitly and emphatically "Buchu."

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If you want a standard Lintiment that you can depend upon, for external use, in all cases of Sprains, Strains, Bruises, Sore Throat, Swollen Muscles, Rheumatism, Pains in the Back, Chest or Side, get "Penetrating." It acts like magic. For sale by all druggists and general dealers in Canada.

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