

some evening through the week. The young women's Bible class was at first held on Sabbath, and there was none for young men; but when I gave up hopes of the institution of a Young Men's Christian Association, the young women's class was transferred to Tuesday evening, and a young men's class was held on Sabbath instead. The holding of separate classes involves more labour; but where it can be done, it is likely to be more useful, as the members feel more free to ask questions, to express themselves, and to manifest anxiety which otherwise they may feel but bashfully hide.

The prayer meeting was held on Thursday evenings, first in the school, but afterwards in the church, and was comparatively well attended by our own people, with a number from the Congregationalist and other churches. Bearing the name of a prayer-meeting, it was really more like a week-evening service, as generally no person took part but Mr. Hall and myself.

Although not connected with our own Church, let me briefly describe the meeting in which I assisted Mr. Hall; for it is one which might very profitably be imitated, where circumstances are favorable. It was similar in design to the service for children which is held monthly or quarterly in some of our own churches; that is, the children were immediately addressed, and the discourse was specially suited to them, while older people were present, and were thus indirectly, and occasionally directly, spoken to. But instead of being at so long intervals it was weekly, it was also more free and easy, questions were asked and admirably answered, hymns were sung which were found to interest and be liked by children, and they were sung well and heartily too. It is very often found that no discourses so reach the hearts and consciences of adults as those which are addressed to children. At the close, all who were enquiring the way to Zion, and who wished for conversation and prayer, were invited to wait, and sometimes the little vestry was crowded with both children and grown persons. The experience of some of the most successful labourers goes to show the usefulness of giving such an opportunity after the preaching of the Gospel. Impressions

are thus fixed which would otherwise be dissipated, difficulties are removed, the way of salvation is more fully explained, the hesitant is helped to decision, the nail is clinched which was driven in by the public discourse. Often the seed which is sown in public preaching is hastened in germination and growth, and is reaped, by this and other modes of private dealing. I found it also most important to watch the countenances of the audience, and where any showed signs of anxiety or feeling, to visit these immediately, and endeavour to lead them at once to the Saviour.

Another meeting which I twice addressed was held every fortnight or month a few miles out of town, and conducted by different ministers. Both times some remained behind, seemingly more or less deeply impressed and anxious for salvation. The last time two sisters remained, one of whom seemed very deeply and genuinely under the influence of God's Spirit, working by His truth. Poor thing! she had just come to the place, as a servant, and up to this time had been under the preaching of one of the highest of High Churchmen, and I suppose the simple gospel from the text, "By Him all that believe are justified from all things, &c.," was new to her, and entered her heart more readily than it does hearts that are gospel-hardened.

At first I did not expect to visit many of the congregation except the sick and those specially needing visitation. But I soon found that all looked for a visit; and as the time of my stay was lengthened from four to six, and from six to eight weeks, I succeeded in visiting almost every family at least once. The first few visits were paid in company with a friend who very kindly accompanied me to guide and introduce me. But I presently found that I could not easily get into close personal dealing unless alone; and I consider that pastoral visitation, which amounts to nothing more than a polite, general chat, is worth very little, if, indeed, it is not worse than none at all, and that the conversation should always be made closely, earnestly and affectionately personal, like Paul's, who "taught from house to house," "warning every man night and day with tears." And so I began introducing myself. I cannot be sufficiently