

interested friend. Let the ice be broken as soon as possible, and a free expression given to the subject which presses on the heart. We are not commending what may be open to the suspicion that it is mere professional talk, but the heart searching and loving remarks which are words fitly spoken. How easily and how cheaply may work be done for the Master. It is not the talk of the lips that tends only to penury, but the outbreathing of a heart on fire with divine love, that kindles a sympathetic flame. A single word may arrest, convince, and by God's blessing, convert a soul. Mr. Nettleton was once passing through a company of impenitent persons, he stopped and whispered, "*eternity*," in the ears of one, and it sent such a thrill through his soul as brought him speedily to Christ. Dr. Edgar, in a letter on the revival in Ulster, brings out a case illustrative of the importance of religious conversation; thus he writes, "Being informed by an elder of the congregation, that a poor woman had fallen on the road, and that, though she seemed deeply anxious about her soul, her neighbours attributed it to drink, I went to visit her, and, after crouching into a low hut, the loom and bed filling the whole room, I found sitting in bed an interesting middle-aged woman, with deep melancholy on every feature, and heavy at heart, as she said, on account of her sins. She had been at no meeting, heard no preaching or words of truth from press or pulpit. "What, then," said I, "moved you to think of your sins?" "The talk of the neighbours," she said. "A right good talk" thought I. "Oh! there is throughout Ulster just now, a blessed talk of God." Revival unseals the lips and opens the mouth in praise. This places in a strong light before our minds, the power of the people of God to spread the news of salvation. Conversation, instead of turning on prices, markets, lots, farms, fashions and neighbours, might take a heavenward direction. "O Lord, thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy Kingdom, and talk of thy power: to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his Kingdom." The Master does not rebuke his disciples, when they cry—"Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest:" but says, "if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

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#### THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

The day of special prayer for our beloved School of the Prophets deserves more than an official notice in the columns of our magazine. These periodical days of special prayer are liable to a two-fold abuse. We entirely lose their benefit, when we observe them by *proxy*; *i. e.*, when we leave the matter with the pastor, to be duly and officially discharged. It is to be feared that there is no prayer offered, in the hearing of others, that is so little the prayer of the people, as the chief act of devotion, in our ordinary Sabbath services. This need not, and should not be; but so we believe it is, in a large majority of our religious assemblies. Let us not suppose that we have discharged our duty in reference to this day of prayer for the Theological Institute, by adding our silent "amen" to the pastor's supplication in its behalf. A time should be set apart in every congregation, for the people to stir up their hearts and take hold of the Lord in these intercessory devotions. As many should take part in the prayer meeting as possible. For the sake of affording opportunity to the many, brethren should be particularly mindful of the admonition, (at all times seasonable) to *be short*; and