

Worship has a powerful effect in the education of our children ; it prepares the mind of the believer for the reception of the word ; it tends, if wisely entered upon, to break up the "fallow ground" of the careless heart : moreover, the prayer of those who agree in asking, prevails with God, and brings down untold blessings. Indeed one hazards little in asserting, that the right conduct of public worship, including the service of song, the reading of the word, and the offering of prayer, is a matter so little inferior to that of preaching the word that it is hard to measure their relative importance. Both for teaching and for exhortation, for comfort and for quickening, for the edification of the believer, and for the conversion of souls, the preparatory service is of high importance in these days, when the general principles of Christian doctrine are understood, and little information is needed respecting them, even by the young.

If this be so, it follows that public prayer, like public preaching, is a matter upon which observation, reading, and study, may be well bestowed, and that no minister can be "thoroughly furnished to all good works," nor can be esteemed "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed," who neglects it.

H.

THE ABIDING UNION.

At a time when commotion or signs of commotion, ruptures, and conflicts are agitating the world, it would be a relief if Christians could turn to each other and say : "We, however, are at peace; our's is the only abiding union." But notwithstanding that we have had religion and revivals of religion, prayer meetings, anniversary meetings, and various other christian combinations, all intended to unite us, the result, as it appears in daily life, seems only to have made still more apparent the truth, that, "as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, no more can ye except ye abide in me," for, after all, we really fail to discover more than a very partial development of this vital union with Christ. Have we been animated, as it were, by the impulse of one heart? Are we indebted for all our activity to nothing but our union with Christ? Is it He, and only He, that has been working in us to will and to do all this? Must we not confess, that though we have drawn our life blood from the Saviour, it has often flowed so feebly as to have been kept in circulation almost entirely by some such influence as party feeling or a worldly competition—so feebly indeed, that the world has been unable, at times, to decide whether we were living, reviving, or about to expire.

It is, however, a hopeful symptom when we are not unconscious of the state to which we have been reduced, and are yearning for closer union and more wholesome co-operation ; when we are no longer content to shine as isolated stars, affording only light enough for the season of slumber and inactivity, but are struggling to collect ourselves into one great medium for the diffusion of light and life. The cross is our only rallying point. Amidst the shaking of the nations we may distinctly hear the voice of Christ sounding an alarm in tones no doubt intended to warn and rally his church, and bring us nearer to himself and to each other, so that come what powers there may against the citadel of our faith, we may all be abiding in Jesus. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

G. A. H.