

minister of the establishment; 'then will christians flock to the churches to hear us, as they now flock to the meetings to hear them.' If I frequent the churches where the end of the Gospel is seldom attained, possibly I may never be cured. I will then go to those physicians who, by the frequency of their cures, prove that they are the best physicians. *'But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.'*

XVII. I am not a member of the Episcopal Church of England, because a certain kind of extemporaneous public prayer is discouraged, and in some dioceses prohibited. What are termed prayer-meetings, or meetings for prayer and singing of hymns, and in common usage among Protestant Nonconformists, have but little countenance from a few of the bishops, and rectors, and curates; and none at all from the great majority of the Episcopal clergy. Now, as I find no opposition to them in the Scriptures, but rather much encouragement; as I have been for many years accustomed to them, and have found spiritual profit by them, as well as other persons; and as I am afraid that, were I to unite with a church which possesses no such ordinances, I should be in danger of losing what little spiritual desire I may possess, and thus endanger my best interests; I dare not but remain as I am, unconnected with the church of the rich and the noble, and encircled in a fold where more spiritual advantages are possessed, although where less form, and pomp, and pretension are found. *'And when he had thus spoken,'* Paul *'kneeled down, and prayed with them all.'* *'And we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed.'*

XVIII. I am not a member of the Episcopal Church of England, because, though the Apostles' creed speaks of 'the communion of saints,' yet I find little or nothing that can be called 'the communion of saints' in that church, whilst in some other churches the thing is possessed, and the members partake of it. There is the shadow of the communion of saints in the assembling of the pious to partake of the Supper of the Lord; and in some congregations, over which there are spiritual ministers, there may be even the substance. There is possessed by the devout a 'fellowship with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ,' and a 'fellowship one with another;' but, while all the devout possess the former, all do not possess the latter fellowship; and, among those who have little or nothing of it, are the pious of the Episcopalian Church. But it is eminently possessed by the Methodist Church; and three of its institutions have the creation and growth of it for their chief end; and other Nonconformist bodies have it. *'Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.'*

XIX. I am not a member of the Episcopal Church of England,