

members. It is now too often the case that the members have got on some stilts of respectability and formality; and there is sadly lacking that freeness and heartiness that is so conducive to the success of social and devotional meetings.

There is great need of a revival of "old-fashioned" Methodism, the best "forward movement" is really a backward one as far as the matter of Christian fellowship is concerned in our Church. Most revivals fail in their after-results, because new members are thrust into cold, formal, cheerless classes which have an icy feeling in their atmosphere and a chilling effect upon a newly converted soul. Hence it is that a large number of evangelists recommend that new converts should be arranged in new classes; and experience has proved the wisdom of such a course of action.

Much might be said about the manner in which a class should be conducted, the need of good leaders; the necessity of lively singing; the power of a prayerful, energetic, and consistent membership. But we would recommend most cordially the reading of a little book on the "Class-meeting"* which contains some prize essays, the reader will learn much from its pages. It is published at a very low cost, and can be got through our Book Rooms.

The future of Methodism depends very much on our attention to this matter of Christian fellowship. Our educational policy may be perfect, our missionary income and work may go ahead, our Sabbath-schools may prosper even, but alas, alas for us if we let our class-meetings diminish. We need more and more to see that this sheet anchor of our Church is doing its work well, or we shall drift from our moorings and lose that spiritual life and fervour which has always been the strength and hope of Methodism in all lands.

BRIGUS, Nfld.

ONLY a word may leave a sting
To wound some kind and loving heart,
It may be but a trifling thing,
That cuts as deeply as a dart.

Only a word may be a lance
Of torture keen as any pain,
And cloud a bright young life in woe,
From which it ne'er can rise again.

* "*Prize Essay on the Class-Meeting.*" Published by Rev. C. H. Kelly, Wesleyan Book Room, London, England.