

multiplied the old difficulty of travelling through territories of material foreign to the subject before me, presented itself. There was an exception to this. The overflowing abundance of suggestions and thoughts on certain questions of practical christianity and social life, led to the reservation of whole pages for each of these. For example, a page or more was reserved for Missions, one for Prayer, one for Intemperance, etc. Facility of reference to these subjects soon taught me that every topic of vital importance should have its items arranged together; that is, in addition to the general alphabetical divisions, there should be topical sub-divisions. A blank book of 400 pages, 13 inches long, was secured. This gives on an average more than 15 pages to each letter of the alphabet, (of course some letters will not demand one-quarter of this space). In mapping it out, an attempt was made to keep the topics in alphabetical order. For instance, under P were written on the head line of consecutive pages (or farther apart), the following: Pardon, Peace, Perseverance, Plans, Pleasure, Poetry, Power, Prayer, Preaching, Pride, Procrastination, Psalms. Where a subject of importance has been found to have been omitted, it can be easily inserted. Many minor subjects crave a place. These may be huddled together on pages reserved for the purpose; or, better still, the order prevailing among the leading topics may be continued here, one page being marked Pa to Pi, another Ph to Po, etc. If one word of defence be needed for this scrupulous method, it may be said that exact arrangement is required in order to know readily what is NOT in the note book, as well as to facilitate reference to what is contained there. To spend precious moments in hunting in brushwood destitute of game is depressing to some, exasperating to others.

The above method affords ample opportunity for jotting down references to important thoughts in books and magazines. The question of pertinent paragraphs in the newspapers was not yet settled. For a time an entry was made in its appropriate place, giving the name of the paper, date and page. But the *New York Observer*, the *Christian at Work*, and the *Presbyterian Witness* accumulated so rapidly that, as the years went by, it was found inconvenient to search out the paragraph, and extremely disappointing when, as sometimes happened, the number was mislaid.