

there was a very treacherous look about the place; but the voice of sacred song ascending from the depths gave one courage to venture down, and there we saw about a dozen of the most woe-begone looking persons we ever saw taking part in an evening service. It is encouraging to know that these religious services have not been without good result. Even in such abodes of poverty, and perhaps of crime, some souls have been born again, and have blessed God that the Gospel was ever taken to them. In one year, by means of this Christian Instruction Society, upwards of 23,000 religious publications have been distributed among the lodgers; and it has been computed that every Sunday evening there is an aggregate attendance of about 300 persons in the kitchens of the Mint lodging-houses listening to the preaching of the Gospel.

The lodging-houses of Spitalfields are regularly visited by members of the Christian Community. This Society has had this district under its charge for upwards of fifteen years, and twenty members are at work every Sabbath evening. In a very small area in this vicinity may be found forty-five lodging-houses, accommodating more than 2000 lodgers of every grade. The description given of some of them is most saddening. One who has had this field of work under his care for years, says that it is next to impossible to give a correct moral picture of the district; vice in every conceivable form is prevalent, and poverty in every degree goes hand in hand with it. As hand-maid to vice and poverty, there is ignorance of everything good, noble, and true; but a full acquaintance with crime and profligacy, excess and selfishness, idleness and lust, hatred, revenge, murder, blasphemy, and sins too foul to name. It is encouraging to know, however, after this fearful picture, that a great change for the better has taken place in this district, into the lodging-houses of which Evangelists go Sunday after Sunday and dispense the Word of Truth, very often with as much attention as could be secured in the ward of a workhouse.

The following is the testimony of the Secretary in regard to the reception of the brethren;—"The evidence of several of our brethren is that a great improvement has been manifest of late. As a rule, we are respected, and our visits readily permitted, and now and then earnestly solicited in some of the houses. On entering a house our brethren, who invariably go two and two together, kindly salute them 'Good evening,' and intimate their intention to speak for a short time. The salutation is returned, and a general hush goes round for silence, coupled with 'We are glad to see you; go on, go on!' The service then proceeds with reading the Scriptures, praying, and often singing, which many heartily join in; an address follows—for sermons are not of much use amongst such people—then a closing prayer. Afterwards the visitor goes round with tracts, and speaks kindly to each as he hands him one; and now he is besieged with a host who begin

to tell their troubles and misfortunes, and, finally, beg for the price of a night's lodging, or something more urgent still. After a kindly 'Good night,' the visitors proceed to the next house, as they generally take two, sometimes three, in the course of the evening."

Several cases of conversion, and other good results, are among the fruits of these simple ministrations. During the past year, through the kindness of several well-known friends of the poor, a number of free tea meetings have been organized specially for the inmates of the lodging-houses in Spitalfields. These meetings have been greatly prized by the poor people; and it has been a most affecting sight to witness the mass of poverty and wretchedness thus brought together. The number of fallen women who have attended has been remarkable; and to these words of Christian kindness and counsel have been addressed by those of their own sex. Through the kindness of Mr. George Moore, many of those who were desirous of quitting their life of shame were enabled to enter Homes, and thus to find a place for repentance. Such, then, is a glimpse of the Christian work which is being carried on in some of the lodging-houses of London; and, had we space, we could give additional illustrations of its usefulness in several other localities than those to which we have directed attention.

"Some weeks ago," a visitor writes, "I went to a small sick ward in Bethnal Green Workhouse. I spoke to the inmates from the words, 'He is despised and rejected of men.' Having finished my address, I was about leaving, when one of the patients called me to his bed, and, with tears in his eyes, exclaimed, 'After that word I can trust my soul with Christ.' I entered into conversation with him, and urged the importance of trusting Jesus without delay, and then left the ward, thankful in the belief that God had fulfilled his promise, 'My word shall not return unto me void.' I visited this poor man about three weeks subsequent to this, and was rejoiced to find that he was still 'looking unto Jesus,' and resting his all on Him. I may add that I have been deeply impressed and much cheered in my humble ministrations in connection with this work. Although I have come in contact with those whom the world treats as the very outcasts of society, I have never received one harsh, or unkind word; but the Gospel has been uniformly received with the most reverent and grateful attention." We might multiply instances of the good accomplished in the various workhouses of the metropolis, through the instrumentality of members of the Christian Community and other friends. It is very encouraging to know that in these asylums, where a word of Christian sympathy is so valuable, and in lodging-houses, into which the broken-hearted sometimes creep, only to be forgotten, that the glorious words are still true, "To the poor the Gospel is preached."