

blessing I receive through your instrumentality Sunday after Sunday. Especially did I find the service yesterday morning [Jan. 20th.] helpful and uplifting to me; and it struck me while thinking over the matter last night, and writing, as my custom is of late, a short account of the sermon, as nearly as I could remember it, that I would just write and tell you, that I among many others doubtless, have got real upbuilding by the study of James as taken by you Sunday after Sunday, and by the service as a whole. It is helpful to me to know that even a child is made the better by anything I may do or say, and I have no doubt that it will serve as a matter of encouragement to you, to know that one and another of your hearers are stimulated to fuller spiritual life by your words; or better still, by God's Spirit talking through you. The services, together with the class on Saturday afternoons, have had a decided tendency to make me more swift to hear and love the word, and I know it is more to me than it used to be. Still I never remember the time when I was not glad to read it, but now I understand it better. I regret that I shall not be in town next Sunday, so that I will miss the next sermon upon being doers of the Word and not hearers only."

I quote the greater part of this note for several reasons. To be thus openly told that spiritual benefit has been received is great encouragement. To know that there are hearers who ponder the Word spoken and try to retain it in the memory is a great stimulus to a preacher. I sometimes say that the hearers who help a preacher most, are those who come furthest to his church; for it would be a shame to bring them so far, if they got nothing for their pains. Their very presence is a stimulus and encouragement, especially when the preacher knows that they have come, it may be at great self-sacrifice, for the reasons indicated above. Again it is an encouragement to know that the hearers are pondering the passages beforehand, and thus preparing themselves to receive his instructions. And, lastly, that they regret having to be absent because they shall lose the current of the exposition. May we have many such hearers.

I have received very great encouragement within the past few weeks through the liberal offerings of your substance, and it would ill become me not to refer to them here; but such things as these are even a higher encourage-