

Our Mission.

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promises, to encourage us to come to Him; with the confidence of children to a father able and willing to keep us.

In all ages of the church He has answered prayer. The Bible is a record of the power of prayer, full of the testimonies of the readiness of God to give what His children ask in faith; and the whole economy of the Christian system depends on the simple truth that God hears and answers prayer.

How important, therefore, that we should oft be found in private prayer, and also that there should be places and seasons at which Christians may assemble and lay their petitions before the "throne of grace."

It is pleasing to note the many privileges now afforded by the Daily Noon Prayer Meetings established throughout all parts of the world, and in such numbers, as to enable us to say that at the noon hour the world is circled with a belt of prayer.

These meetings are intended to give merchants, clerks, strangers, and business men generally, an opportunity to stop and call upon God amid the daily perplexities incident to their respective avocations.

Perhaps the most widely known among these is that held in New York, and known as the "Fulton Street Prayer Meeting." Of the origin of this meeting we give the following notes furnished us by Rev. J. C. Lanphier, with whom the meeting originated. He says:—

"I regard the origin of the Fulton street Prayer-Meeting an additional evidence that God delights to honor humble instrumentality. I should not have noticed anything that might have been written or said concerning the origin of the meeting, had not efforts been made to give it consequence, and to claim for those who had no connection with it, a historic record as its founders. I consulted with no person, and no person consulted with me about that meeting, until I had determined to establish it. I applied for and obtained permission to use the room for that purpose. I then appointed a time for holding the first meeting. Immediately after, I commenced to give notice by cards, letters, and handbills. I found no encouragement from any of them. During the period which elapsed between my determination to establish the service and the first meeting, nothing occurred to give me the least hope of Christian sympathy or support. But my trust in God, and my firm reliance on Him, and feeling in my inmost soul that my purpose was in this humble way of prayer to honor Him, I felt that such a meeting would become the instrument of His blessing to souls of men. I had been accustomed to

be in that room for prayer before the day on which the first meeting was appointed. Sometimes one or two, and once three, were with me. But at twelve o'clock noon, on the 23rd day of September, 1857, the day that the Fulton-street Meeting was established, notwithstanding the great pains I had taken to make it public, I was there alone with Jesus for half an hour before any person entered the room. At half-past twelve the step of a solitary individual was heard on the stairs. During the last half hour, five other persons came in."

It will thus be seen that Mr. Lanphier sat out the first half hour of the Fulton-street Noon-day Prayer Meeting alone. What has followed is a matter of history. To this point requests for prayer have poured in from all parts of the world, and answers many and (to human eyes) marvellous have been vouchsafed, and 103 Fulton-street has been as it were a Mecca to which the feet of Christian pilgrims from the four corners of the globe have tended, and they have returned to their homes strengthened in purpose and faith. We pray that the blessings of the future may be even greater than those of the past, and that Daily Prayer Meetings may become more generally established and appreciated.

OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

BY REV. JOHN McEWEN, Lakefield, Ont.

[Feb. 7.] The Fiery Furnace. [Dan. 3. 16-28.]

It is deemed best to omit the important lesson on Daniel in Babylon, in order to be forward for the scholars and teachers using these "nuggets of gold" from the lessons. Daniel and his companions were carried captives many years before the downfall of Jerusalem, and had come into prominence in Babylon, when the great overthrow came upon Judah.

HERE IS A YOUNG MAN OF FIRM PURPOSE, who would not defile himself with what was associated with idolatry; avoiding the appearance of evil, HE IS WILLING TO SUBMIT TO A PRACTICAL TEST, and the issue was highly satisfactory. The course pursued led to an honoured and signally useful life. "Them that honour Me, I will honour." Daniel's three friends and fellow captives are of like mind with himself, and are the central figures of this lesson. The whole is vividly pictorial. Call out the persons and the details of their position and character.

1. The notable gathering on the plains of Dura.
2. The accusing Chaldeans.
3. The furious king.
4. The four men walking amid the flames.

Make much of the memory verses, 16, 17, 18.

DON'T FAIL TO TEACH THOROUGHLY:

The integrity of these young men, notwithstanding the terrible alternative presented on their disobedience to the king; and that