

Middleton, near Manchester, England, has removed with his family to this country. The *Middleton Albion* speaks highly of the good work he has accomplished in that town in a pastorate of over seven years, and a parting meeting with his congregation spoke in a similar strain. We had a call from Mr. Colclough on his way west. He is at this present preaching for the friends at St. Catharines.

### FAITH-HEALING.

The following from the *Chicago Christian Standard* is sent to us by our old friend, Mr. Charles Owen, dated Baptist Parsonage, Vernon, Michigan, U. S. A.—We should not wish it to be supposed that we disbelieve that there are cases in which God heals diseases in answer to the prayer of faith. We do not understand that the writer pledges himself to any such position. But we agree with him that there is a fanaticism on this subject which is very prejudicial, and we know that it works disastrously in other ways besides that which his letter indicates:—

In October last an evangelist of some note, now laboring in the west, was invited by the writer to come and assist him in special evangelistic services. After the meetings had been in progress about a week, the brother introduced and greatly magnified the doctrine of faith-healing. His attention was immediately directed to the case of a young lady, a member of the church, who for three years had been an invalid, sorely afflicted with spinal disease. In regard to the case, he publicly declared that if there were two or three persons in the church who had faith to pray with him for her healing we might see her praising God with us in the sanctuary in less than two days. The persons were found, a meeting was appointed, and the young lady was prayed for and anointed with oil, according to James v. 14, the evangelist conducting the services. The same evening the young lady arose from her bed and sat up in a chair, a thing she had not been able to do for weeks. Two days later, on Sunday, she rode to church in a carriage, and sat during a service of two hours in length, and for some time afterward continued to show signs of gradual improvement. Immediately the daily papers, and all, gave a sensational account of the great *miracle* that had been performed; letters of inquiry as to the facts began to pour in upon the pastor from all quarters; and the sick, the lame, the blind, and the halt, came to our meetings from all parts of the city and vicinity. Afternoon meetings were appointed to which those afflicted with incurable diseases were invited by the evangelist to come and be prayed for. Many received the anointing, some also testifying that they had become entirely "healed" of various distressing maladies. One old gentleman, over seventy years of age, who had for many years been badly crippled with rheumatism, declared that every vestige of his ailment had suddenly disappeared, and to prove his assertion, swung his arms and moved his legs, and walked about the room as nimbly as a youth of seventeen. Others declared, according to the prescribed formula, that they were "healed," but that none of their old symptoms had yet been taken away.

The effect upon our religious meetings was that anxiety for soul-healing was soon lost sight of amid the anxiety for healing of the body, and in the opinion of the pastor and others, it was deemed advisable to bring the meetings to a close. By this time a gentleman in Newark, O., hearing through a Pittsburgh friend of the marvellous cures that were here being performed, wrote to have his friend bring on the evangelist, regardless of expense, to pray for a beloved young daughter, who was dying of consumption. Newark was visited, the young lady was prayed for and anointed, the result being the same as in the case already mentioned. She also left her bed, went to church on the following Sabbath, resumed her class in Sunday school, and was reported "healed," the incident creating great excitement in Newark, and, like the other, being published far and wide by the daily journals.

Following this, a faith-healing convention, continuing three days, was held in our city, at which the evangelist above referred to, and other noted advocates of the doctrine, from New York and other places, participated in the exercises. During these three days about sixty afflicted persons, according to the papers, received the anointing, and faith-healing was also the principal topic of discussion in all circles. During the few weeks that followed, it became the Sabbath theme of at least one or more discourses in nearly every pulpit in the city, none, however, of the ministers declaring themselves in sympathy with the doctrines as presented.

You can see, therefore, that our experience on this subject entitles us to at least a respectful hearing. But now as to results. What at the present writing can be pointed to as the outcome of what has been related?—In regard, first, to the miraculous cures performed, to my knowledge there is not an authentic case to mention. Scarcely a week had passed after his anointing before the aged brother who had been so thoroughly divested of his rheumatism, was lying almost at death's door with rheumatic affection of the heart, and from then till now has scarcely been able to cross the threshold of his own home. Miss Maria Morgan, of my own church, and Miss Jennie Brown, of Newark, O., the young ladies above referred to, have both for weeks been laid away in their graves; and among all the cases of lesser note developed either during the meetings at my church or at the convention in another part of the city, I have yet to learn of a genuine cure.

The moral results, however, are more difficult to summarise. The disappointment which so quickly succeeded the bright expectations of the afflicted ones has been keen; faith in the promises of God's Word, in the minds of many Christians, has been rudely shaken; the scoffers and infidels have been multiplied; many who do not discriminate between the teachings of the Bible and the interpretation given to its truths by well-meaning but misguided persons, are ready to pronounce the Word as false. Many intelligent and earnest Christians are sad, because they feel Christianity has been misrepresented, God's name dishonored, and the Saviour wounded in the house of his friends.

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