

himself to give them to the poor families. And Mr. Martyn, too, now that he is no longer an assistant and has a church of his own, always the last thing on Christmas Eve goes to see his poor families, and takes in his sleigh something for their Christmas dinners, in order to keep up Bertha's example of care for the poor at that happy season. And the children in his Sunday-school give something every year for the annual ride with the turkeys. Thus the poor turkeys and little Bertha and her teacher and the minister and Arthur all alike did God's will; for the Bible has said: "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters." And again it says: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world."—*Condensed from N. Y. Independent.*

#### PRAYER MEETING.

1. Be regular and prompt in attendance, if possible; if not come when you can. The extent to which you give up business, ease and pleasure for the prayer meeting is one of the best evidences of consecration to Christ.

2. Come to it prepared in thought and spirit to do what you can to make it interesting and profitable. Make it a subject of private prayer. Have faith in Christ's promised presence and blessing.

3. Cultivate a proper regard for the prayer meeting as a means of grace. Esteem its attendance a privilege and a pleasure, not an irksome duty.

4. Participate in the meeting, either by speaking, praying, repeating or reading a verse of Scripture, reciting or singing a part of a hymn, or by asking the pastor or others some question relating to practical religion.

5. Ladies as well as gentlemen are invited to participate in this general freedom. Let it be a social, family meeting of the one "household of faith."

6. It is very important that you should always hold yourselves in readiness to improve each opportunity without waiting for each other and without being urged.

7. Abandon all mere formality and cant. Break away from all use of hack-

neyed expressions, ways and tones of voice. Be natural and earnest. Put freshness and life into the meeting.

8. Always be brief, both in prayer and in remarks. Feel free to take part more than once, if you desire.

9. "Stir up the gift of God which is in thee." Use faithfully what talents the Lord has given you.

10. Your providences, your answers to prayer, your own experiences, and thoughts, will always give you a witness to bear for Christ, and enable you to say something which shall be for the profit and encouragement of others. Keep them in remembrance.

11. Follow the topic suggested by the leader, so far as may be; but do not feel confined to it if the Holy Spirit's leading is otherwise. Seek always your chief direction in all things from God.

12. Put cheerfulness and sunshine into it. Make the meeting a witness of the joys of religion. Dulness and gloom are not fruits of the Spirit.

13. Bring others with you, and endeavour to secure their regular attendance. Especially try to enlist the young. Lead everybody to feel at home, and be free to come.

14. Strive to increase your usefulness by overcoming personal hindrances. Consult God and his Word more than that of man.

15. Do not stay away for fear that you may be called upon. No one will be called upon by the pastor unless previous consent has been ascertained.

16. Be social as you meet together at the close, but avoid worldliness and frivolity. Use the occasion to cultivate Christian fellowship and love.

#### INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS.

##### FIRST QUARTER, 1876.

1. Jan. 2.—Saul rejected.....1 Sam. 15, 10-23.
2. Jan. 9.—David Anointed King...1 Sam. 16, 1-13.
3. Jan. 16.—David and Goliath...1 Sam. 17, 38-51.
4. Jan. 23.—David in the Palace...1 Sam. 18, 1-16.
5. Jan. 30.—David and Jonathan...1 Sam. 20, 35-42.
6. Feb. 6.—David sparing Saul...1 Sam. 24, 1-16.
7. Feb. 13.—Saul and his Sons slain...1 Sam. 31, 1-6.
8. Feb. 20.—David established King...2 Sam. 5, 17-25.
9. Feb. 27.—The Ark brought to Zion...2 Sam. 6, 1-15.
10. March 5.—God's Covenant with David...2 Sam. 7, 18-29.
11. March 12.—Absalom's Rebellion...2 Sam. 15, 1-14.
12. March 19.—Absalom's death...2 Sam. 18, 24-33.
13. March 26.—Review; or, a lesson selected by the school.