

apply the rule. Nominal membership is thus produced, and is the measure of departure from the New Testament rule of membership. This is the exact fact in regard to Methodism; and it is full of argument in support of the position maintained in these pages. It is also very admonitory. Just in proportion as the membership has been a practical, fellowship membership, have there been spiritual life and power. The production and maintenance of these are the great ends to be served by the Church's operations.

6. The last advantage I shall mention, as especially growing out of this manner of maintaining Church membership, is the excellency of the means by which it provides for taking hold of those, who, by the power of the truth and the Spirit of God, are awakened to a sense of sin, and desire to be saved. The evangelistic work of the Church can, and does go on in its public preaching; and, by this means, public worship is maintained. And, although the worldly do not worship, they do come to the place of the holy, where God's people worship him. Here they are reached by the truth, and are awakened; and, if also saved, can find a congenial home in the assembly of the "saints." But if they are seeking the Lord, there is no better place for them to be led forward, till "Christ has wrought a perfect cure," than the class-meeting. Here they are surrounded with men and women, who know the way, and who are prepared to instruct and guide them. Spiritual interests are here