

Current Readings.

METHODISM.

THIS is not bigotry; it is not offensive sectarianism; it is "an organized Christian fraternity," seeking alliance offensive and defensive with all forces of righteousness in array against all forces of sin. Acquaint yourself with the history, polity and doctrines of our own denomination. Make much of the peculiarities of our system. Our victories have been won by minding, and not by mending, our Rules. To enforce, and not to improve, our Discipline is our greatest need, and would be fruitful of the best results within the range of possible realization. Be loyal Methodists. Guard the old-time sacred fires which, from the first, burned and glowed on our altars. Keep aflame in your own hearts the warm love and the consuming zeal which marked your godly fathers and saintly mothers, drew down upon them persecutions, and branded them "enthusiasts" and "fanatics." As a church we need frequently to replenish ourselves with the oil and the fuel of divine grace, lest the light that is in us grow dim, and the fire enkindled by the Holy Ghost among us die down in smouldering embers, and we become cheerless and chill. We must keep in "the old paths, where is the good way," into which we were called at the beginning, and in which our forefathers have walked triumphantly for a hundred and a half-hundred years.

We have been a radical Church against sin and in favour of holiness; we have been a witnessing Church, making known the power of grace unto full salvation; we have been a revival Church; Pentecosts have crowned our altars and glorified our sanctuaries; we have been a triumphant Church, filled with the joy of Christian experience; our fathers used to shout, like conquerors; they were mighty men of God, whose tread was like the tramp of thunder, and whose voices

in prayer and testimony were like bugle-blasts blown from trumpets of tall archangels. Our mothers used to be victorious heroines of the Cross, angels of light and love in dark places and to desolate hearts. Ye are the seed royal of this godly race; perpetuate the purity and power of their holy lives and deeds. Let their deep, personal piety dwell in you; let their rich experiences of full salvation and their clear, ringing testimonies in the power of divine grace, which made and marked them the "elect sons and daughters of God"—find place and utterance in you; then the Church shall be filled with devout worshippers, and the message of the Gospel resounding through its aisles shall reverberate in the ears of the outlying multitudes. —*Christ Church Monthly.*

AN INSPIRATIONAL CHURCH.

WE have heard a great deal about the Institutional Church. It has kindergartens, and working-girls' clubs, and young men's clubs, and boys' clubs, and parlours, and a gymnasium, and a reading-room, and perhaps a bowling-alley and a billiard-room, to say nothing of a kitchen and a monthly party called a "sociable." It has something on hand every night in the week. It educates, it entertains, it instructs. We believe in the Institutional Church.

But there is some danger lest the Institutional Church shall fail to be also an Inspirational Church; in which case it ceases to be a Church at all. A Church is not an Academy, it is not a Club, and it certainly is not a Variety Show. Its object is not to teach, nor to entertain. Its chief object is to inspire. There are clubs and societies and orders to entertain; there are schools to teach; there is only the Church to inspire. Other institutions minister to the body, to the social instincts, to the mind; the Church alone ministers to the spirit. If the Church, in its