

The Prayer-Meeting.

(Read before the Albert Quarterly Meeting.) BY REV. W. CAMP.

I have chosen as the subject of this paper, 'The Prayer-meeting.' In many respects there is no department of church work so important to the pastor as the prayer-meeting.

There is no part of church work more difficult to make a success of, for the simple reason that the elements which go to make up a successful prayer-meeting are varied, and dependent on the individual members of the church, as well as on the pastor.

We have all heard, perhaps, of president Edwards' historic evening sermon. His subject was: "Sinners in the hands of an angry God." This subject was founded upon the text: "Their feet shall slip in the stone." Deut. 32: 35.

While the preacher was delivering this sermon, reading it from a little manuscript not much larger than his hand, with no art of oratory, the audience was so moved that strong men cried out, "Mr. Edwards, is there no hope?" Some of the people caught hold of the pillars as if feeling the awful words of the text were in their own case being actually realized.

But what was behind that sermon? Now the fact was that a few Christians in the vicinity of E. field had become alarmed lest, while God was blessing other places, He should in anger pass them by. And so they met on the evening preceding that sermon, and spent the night in agonizing prayer.

In many churches the hours for morning and evening public worship are preceded by an hour each of prayer and supplication for God's blessing upon the sermon. Would it not be well that in all our churches the true spiritually minded brethren and sisters would meet for prayer on Sunday morning, for God's blessing to rest upon the sermons preached that day by their pastor.

My way of thinking, Dr. Gordon, of Boston, is one of the best pastors on this continent. He has been in the Clarendon street church for twenty years. The Christian work done by this church under the leadership of Dr. Gordon is something marvellous.

Now to make the weekly prayer-meeting successful, though it is a difficult task, is nevertheless worthy of all honest effort. It is indeed a foolish pastor who thinks a prayer-meeting can run itself and who does not live to it and prolong and perfect it.

The first condition of success I would mention is: 1. Is to have the house well lighted and comfortable.

I consider this a very important element in a successful prayer-meeting. Not long ago I attended a prayer-meeting held in the main audience room where two lights were dimly burning. I did not wonder at the small number of the audience.

In Dr. Gordon's church, Boston, during the summer, the service begins at a quarter to eight and closes at nine. A clock hangs in the entry and when the minute and hour hands reach the points the service begins and closes.

an oven, nor so cold as to suggest the idea of a refrigerator. Let the house be well lighted and comfortable. This will be to the stranger and the careless the warm grasp of the hand and the cheerful word "welcome."

2. Cultivate the spirit of cheerfulness. It is a mistake to suppose that a long, sad face is the index of great sanctity. We are commanded to "rejoice in the Lord," and to "rejoice always." There is as much piety in a bright, smiling countenance as in a heavy, sad face.

Religion is calculated to make us happy and those about us happy. When we enter the prayer-meeting, should not look as though we were going to the gallows, but to the mercy seat—to holy and blessed communion with God.

3. We should endeavor to grasp Christ's promise, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." Yes, we should say, "Christ is here." Unseen though He be, still He is here. He has promised, and His promises never fail.

4. It should be a season of prayer. No doubt that exhortations and hymns are excellent and proper in a prayer-meeting, but no prayer-meeting is complete apart from earnest prayer. Let the prayers be short and to the purpose.

5. The people should speak so as to be heard. How many meetings are interesting, but in some churches at least, if the people would speak out so as to be heard. Not every person can, perhaps, but how many out of habit or timidity speak so indistinctly that only a small number can possibly hear them.

6. There should be a definite hour for opening and closing the meeting. In some churches we hear of "early candle light" as the hour of opening. Who knows when that is? There is a great advantage in opening and closing at a stated hour.

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perceptions that this plan can be carried out in the country as well as in the city.

7. The presence and blessing of the Holy Spirit. Without His presence and blessing all our efforts will be in vain. His alone can give potency to the prayers and addresses of the people. He can open hearts and blind eyes.

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A Stranger.

One Sunday evening, not long since, a young man stood in a pew in one of our large churches at the close of service. He looked at the crowd of people passing under the aisles and out through the large doors into the porch.

The young man was a stranger in the city—he had come only the week before to engage in business. It had been a lonely, home-sick Sunday for him. He had been sitting after supper, in the cheerless room of his boarding house, thinking of the circle of loved ones gathered around the old farmhouse fire-side, when the church bell aroused him from his home picture making.

What is true of Mr. Spurgeon is equally true in regard to the veteran Newman Hall and Canon Basil Wilberforce, and Dr. Alexander MacLaren and the brilliant and pungent John McNeill.

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Staying Power.

A live Christian takes abundance of exercise. "If the stars did not move," said Horace Bushnell, "they might rot in the sky." Assuredly, too many members in our churches are dry-noodled with utter inactivity—like some of the old frigates chained up to the dock in yonder navy-yard.

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Good news!

No one, who is willing to accept the right course, need be long afflicted with leish, carbuncles, pimples, or other cutaneous eruptions. These are the result of Nature's efforts to expel poisons and effete matter from the blood, and show plainly that the system is ridding itself through the skin of impure blood.

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NOV. 19.

Advertisement for Ayer's Sarsaparilla, featuring a portrait of a man and text describing the medicine's benefits for various ailments.

Advertisement for Ayer's Sarsaparilla, detailing its preparation and availability at various druggists.

Advertisement for hotels, listing the Central House, Elliott's Hotel, Hotel Stanley, Hotel Ottawa, and Oxford House.

Advertisement for R. P. Saunders' Restaurant, located at 146 Mill Street, Portland, N.B.

Advertisement for Isaac Erb, a photographer at 13 Charlotte St., St. John, N.B.

Advertisement for J. R. Cameron, a dealer in hides and calf skins, located at 111 Prince Wm. Street.

Advertisement for J. McC. Snow, an insurance agency at 111 Prince Wm. Street.

Advertisement for Marble, Freestone, and Granite Works, located at Walker & Page, A.J. Walker & Co., Truro, N.S.

Advertisement for Currie & Howard, manufacturers of furniture, located at 111 Prince Wm. Street.

Advertisement for W.P.B. Dentist, located at 22 Germain St., St. John, N.B.