

conversion to the Christian faith. "When they prayed the place was shaken where they were." Acts iv: 31. These are but meagre specimens of what the Scriptures say about prayer. The history of the first Christians is full of prayer. If you wish to know where they prayed, you only need find where they were, for they were instant in "prayer"—"prayed night and day"—"prayed always"—"prayed without ceasing." They prayed "on the housetop," "in the house," by the "sea shore," "in the prison" and, in the assembly. They prayed wherever they were. We should do the same.

They spent much more time upon their knees, than the professors of religion in our day. The sin that we fear is not that brethren do not pray in their families, but that they do not *pray any place* half as much as they should. Now if the first Christians prayed wherever they were, even when confined in a prison, why should any man who wishes to do the will of God, hesitate to pray in his family? Can any man show a better place, ordinarily, for reading the Scriptures and prayer? Can there be any objection to this place? Are not Christians required to pray everywhere? Will not God hear a Christian in his family? No one doubts that it is as suitable and appropriate as any place on earth. "Why then, is it not commanded?" Because there are thousands of Christians who have neither houses nor families, and the Lord has left the way open so that they can worship God just as acceptably in whatever place they may be, as the man who has an orderly family and home. The Lord has left the head of the family free to determine the appropriate place to worship. But woe to that Christian who objects to the family circle, as a suitable place, and then does not worship any place. But we never saw a good reason and do not believe there is any, against the orderly custom of reading a portion of Scripture and praying in the family, and we believe that those fathers and mothers whose children never heard them pray, will most solemnly lament it when they see the Lord Jesus at his coming. We must give more attention to this subject through our columns soon. "Pray without ceasing; rejoice evermore, and in everything give thanks."

#### ASSEMBLIES AT CINCINNATI.

*Cincinnati, O., Oct., 1853.*

BROTHER OLIPHANT:—We have had a grand meeting here, the occasion of the Anniversaries of the Christian Missionary, Bible, and Publication Societies. A goodly number of preachers and other brethren were present from several States. The President of the Missionary Society—brother A. Campbell—gave us a most excellent address, which will be published, and be of great interest to all who love the blessed cause of home and foreign missions. The addresses of D. S. Burnet, President of the Bible Society, and Dr. B. S. Lawson, President of the Publication Society, were full of encouragement, especially the latter. There is good prospect now, that we shall ere long be able to issue books &c., demanded by the brotherhood, in a way advantageous to the whole body.