

cause is a lack of devotional spirit, and the cure is the cultivation of it. For lack of devotional spirit some students stand talking in the corridors while the college prayer meeting is going on. It will be a wonder if they have a prayer meeting in their mission fields. Perhaps the burden of responsibility or the tyranny of use and wont will impose on them the necessity of attending a weekly prayer meeting there. Students who manifest an indifference towards prayer meetings throughout their college course, will need to experience some wonderful change after graduation, before their own prayer meetings become a source of spiritual joy to their people, or a pleasant part of their pastoral duties.

Let us glance into the future of one who takes an exemption from prayer meetings throughout his college course. Five minutes before starting out to his prayer meeting, he asks his wife, "where is the Sunday-school lesson for next Sunday?" A hasty glance is all the preparation for a service of which the address is regarded by preacher and people as the most important part. He and his wife silently walk to the church. Their children stay at home or go to the skating rink. The minister is silent because he is thinking of what he is to say at the meeting. His wife is silent because she knows that he is always uncompanionable when going to prayer meeting. At the meeting, one or two besides himself may lead in prayer, or they may decline to make this innovation. The smallness of the attendance and the holding of the meeting in the basement of the church, the absence of the organist and the decidedly inferior quality of the singing, remind one that this is not the popular Rev. Mr. Sloper's Sunday service. The chief distinguishing feature of it is that his prayer meeting address is not worthy to be compared to his Sunday sermons. When he has to be away from home on Wednesday night, he finds it

as hard to get one of his session to take the meeting, as once it used to be to get him to take his turn in leading the college prayer meeting.

In our Sabbath morning prayer meeting, one of our professors always gives us an earnest practical address, relating to our work, and dealing with the trials and temptations which are peculiar to our circumstances. The Scripture is read, psalms and hymns are sung, and several students lead in prayer. Our Thursday evening meeting is entirely devotional. Prayers and praises rise, and the Word of God is read without comment. It is wonderful how interesting and heart-warming such a meeting may become. One Thursday evening we were hastening to our room. Our Greek exegesis lay on our table awaiting completion. A half-finished letter tempted us to "slope" prayers. Someone slipped his arm around ours in a brotherly way, and said, "Come to prayer meeting." We yielded, and gained more than we lost.

If "the prayer meeting is the thermometer of the Church," ours must be an indicator of our spiritual warmth. The near approach of examinations is a poor excuse for letting the temperature sink almost to the freezing point. If "the prayer meeting is the pulse of the Church," let us see to our health. Surely our spiritual life needs to be vigorous when we are on the eve of taking a mission field for the summer, or of leaving these halls of training and spiritual privilege to enter upon our life work.

The healing of the widespread evil of neglecting prayer meetings should begin in the schools of the prophets.

#### *Sabbath Observance:—*

A healthy sign of the times is the attention being given in some quarters to the better observance of the Sabbath. Church courts and other assemblies have been actively moving in this direction, which is indeed full of hope and pro-