

backslider, or the carnal Christian, would be unhappy; yet it was a centre of attraction to godly ones who longed for communion in spiritual things.

Mrs. Barbauld in her poem, "The Blessedness of Christian Fellowship," describes such souls as congregated from time to time in the house of our departed friends on King William Street:

"How blest the sacred tie that binds,
In union sweet, according minds!
How swift the heavenly course they run,
Whose hearts, whose faith, whose hopes, are one!

"To each the soul of each how dear!
What jealous love! What holy fear!
How doth the generous flame within
Refine from earth and cleanse from sin!

"Together both they seek the place
Where God reveals His glorious face:
How high, how strong, their raptures swell,
There's none but kindred souls can tell!"

Next in importance and value to the seasons spent in immediate communion with God, are the hours devoted to spiritual communion with His people. The former afford the highest and holiest experience a saint can know on earth, while the latter must rank next in blessing to it.

The relationship existing between God's people, and the close and tender ties which bind them together, should enable them to have communion in everything of a spiritual kind and character; though heart-to-heart fellowship can only be fully realized when each is walking with God.