

and impressive. Also, it is desirable that he should be one who, in singing, pronounces his words ; not glide with le, la, la, through the hymn, and nobody know what he is singing ; nor is it desirable that he should bawl, ready to split his throat, but sing easily and melodiously. Of course, perfection cannot be expected, but the above will serve for a hint as to the kind of article that is wanted. Direct to Deacons of Surrey Tabernacle, care of J. Cox, 100, Borough Road, S. E."

---

**PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE POOR.**—It is not enough merely to go round to the houses of the poor and invite them to church, and then consider our duty ended. A cold, formal invitation will do no good ; it will be appraised at its true value. But, if we are truly anxious for their salvation, let us call upon them on the Sabbath, and invite them to accompany us to the house of God. Let them share our luxurious seats, and they will soon understand that our interest in them is deep and true.

Let us not be afraid to follow in the footsteps of the King of Glory, who came to seek and save, not the rich, proud, religious Pharisee, but the sinful outcasts of society, and sent this message to John the Baptist, as one of the distinguishing traits of the new dispensation, that the poor had the gospel preached unto them.

It is in this direction, also, that Christian employers may find a large field, ready to welcome their efforts in extending their Master's kingdom. Of all the men in your employ, how many receive a friendly word from you—how many have ever seen you within their doors—how many could tell how kindly you inquired for their wives and children—how you called to see themselves when laid up with sickness ? How many have ever heard from you a hearty word of good advice ? How many have you asked how they spend the Sabbath, or counseled as to the ever-living soul within them ? "For there are reciprocities of right which no creature can gainsay."

---

**EVENING PARTIES.**—No one would accuse Thackeray of Puritan scruples or a tendency to religious croaking. He speaks as a close observer, and a merely humane critic, in one of the papers found in his recently issued volume, where he says :—"The system of evening parties is a false and absurd one. Ladies may frequent them professionally, with an eye to a husband, but a man is an ass who takes a wife out of such assemblies, having no other means of judging of his choice. You are not the same person in your white crape and satin slippers as you are in your morning dress. A man is not the same in his tight coat, and his feverish glazed pumps, and his stiff, white waistcoat, as he is in his green double-breasted frock, his old black ditto, or his woollen jacket. And a man is doubly an ass who is in the habit of frequenting evening parties, unless he is forced thither in search of a lady to whom he is attached—unless he is compelled to go by his wife. A man who loves dancing may be set down as an ass, and the fashion is greatly going out with the increased good sense of the age. Do not say that he who lives at home, or frequents clubs in lieu of balls, is a brute or has not a respect for the female sex ; on the contrary, he may respect it most sincerely. He feels that a woman appears to advantage not among those whom she cannot care about, but among those whom she loves. He thinks she is beautiful when she is at home making tea for her old father. He believes her to be charming when she is singing a simple song at the piano, but not when she is screeching at an evening party. He thinks by far the most valuable part of her is her heart ; and a kind, simple heart, my dear, shines in conversation better than the best of wit. He admires her most in intercourse with her family and friends, and detests the miserable slip-slop he is obliged to hear from and utter to her in the course of a ball, and avoids and despises such meetings."