

the congregations belonging to the churches and chapels in the neighbourhood of the theatres. Some made a positive assertion that there had been a decided increase; many, impressed by the special services, having gone afterwards to the places of worship near their own homes. However objectionable might be the associations connected with a theatre, it was surely better that 20,700 people should hear the word of God in such buildings than that they should parade about Petticoat-lane, Houndsditch, Rag-fair, and the New-cut, breaking the commandments and violating the law. He must express his gratitude to the Nonconformist ministers and eminent laymen who had joined heart and soul in this work, without any rivalry beyond that of doing the utmost possible good. He was quite certain of the fact that the vast number of ordained ministers who had come forward and devoted themselves to the wants, feelings, and exigencies of the people, had done much to rivet the Church of England in the hearts of the people, and so far from endangering the Church had contributed to its security. (Hear, hear.) And if an inhibition were issued against these services, he was himself prepared to test its legality. (Hear, hear.) He contended that it was not in the power of any human being or any class of human beings to prevent a man from preaching the word of God, in season and out of season, at all hours and in every place, to everybody. He had the greatest respect for Nonconformists, among whom he numbered some of his most true, affectionate, and valued friends, but he was a sincere and earnestly attached son of the Church of England, and he did not wish to see that Church degraded in the least from her position, her dignity, her power, or her right. He wanted her to enter into praiseworthy rivalry with the Nonconformists in this work; but he never could consent to her abandoning her sacred duty of evangelizing the people. He did hope and trust, therefore, that their lordships would not attempt to arrest this movement. (Hear, hear.) But whatever their lordships did he said and he knew he was speaking the sentiments of all with whom he was associated, that they would, by the favour of God, persevere in the course they had begun, so long as they had breath to speak or material to work with. (Cheers.)

We are sure that this extract will not be counted too long, and that we may add, without causing weariness, the following report:

**THE SPECIAL SERVICES IN THE THEATRES.**—The Standard Theatre is situated in the midst of the dense population of Shoreditch, Bethnal-green, and Spital-fields. The preacher on Sunday evening was the Rev. H. D. Northrop, of New York, a very youthful-looking minister, but gifted with a strong voice and fluent though simple eloquence. Every part of the theatre was thronged with an audience, exceedingly miscellaneous indeed, but comprising a large proportion of the lowest classes, male and female. The gallery was filled with the boys popularly known as street Arabs. During the time of the assembling of the congregation hats were worn, and there was a general hum of lively conversation, indicating how little these people were accustomed to the proprieties of a place of worship. The preacher having taken his place at a table on the stage, the service was commenced with a hymn given out by Mr. R. N. Fowler, the banker, and we (*Record*) observed that the singing was very general. The Rev. W. Owen then read Matt. xix. 13-20, after which, Mr. Northrop offered prayer, during which there was a silence the more marked because some noise disturbed the previous reading of the Scriptures. Another hymn having been sung, the Rev. gentleman announced his text, Rev. iii. 20, "Behold I stand at the door and knock," &c. The people listened for an hour with rapt attention. The service concluded with a hymn, short prayer, and the benediction. It is worthy of note that the printed hymns circulated among the people are followed by a list of clergymen, ministers, and City missionaries in the neighbourhood, who, it is stated, "will be happy to see persons desirous of further religious instruction."

**THE REPEAL OF THE PAPER DUTY.**—It is no part of our duty to meddle in these columns with the mysteries of politics and finance, but as friends of knowledge, liberty, and religion, we cannot but express our joy in the prospect of a