

of the greatest advantage. We now add a few remarks on the objects at which such meetings should aim.

It should be the desire and aim of those attending them to obtain the advancement of religion in their own souls, in the congregation to which they belong, and throughout all the Churches of Christ; to ask the Divine blessing on the preaching of the Gospel, and all the means of grace that are enjoyed, that both ministers and people may rejoice together, and be edified; to plead for the excitement of a spirit of seriousness and enquiry about the great things of salvation, in our neighbours and fellow-men; to pray that peace may be within the walls of Jerusalem, and prosperity within her palaces; and that Christian unity and love may abound throughout all the Churches; to supplicate for the extension of the Gospel over the world, for the downfall of Antichrist, the subversion of Mahometanism, the bringing in of the Jews, the full conversion of the Gentiles, and the arrival of those happy days, when men shall beat their swords into plough-shares, and their spears into pruning-hooks, neither shall they learn war any more! What noble objects are these! Compared with these, how poor the purposes for which other meetings take place!

The social religious meetings now recommended, are well calculated to be very beneficial. If rightly conducted, they will, through the Divine blessing sought upon them, tend greatly to produce and strengthen that reciprocal love, which is the bond of perfectness. They will be instrumental in stirring up the graces of the Christian character, and in bringing forth to the view and love of one another, its beautiful and attractive features. They will act as a powerful safeguard to behaviour, by prompting to circumspection, tenderness of conscience, and holy watchfulness. We may well hope that they will be the means of bringing down more abundantly upon ourselves and others the blessing of God and the influences of his Holy Spirit. It has ever held true that a praying people have been a spiritually prosperous people. May we not humbly hope, too, that our fervent, importunate, and persevering supplications will do something for the interests of religion at large? Who can tell what may be the fruits of multiplied, united prayer, wherever a company of praying people can be gathered—sent up on behalf of the ignorant and unconcerned about their eternal interests; and on behalf of the poor heathen, and the deluded followers of the false prophet, who in multitudes are perishing for lack of knowledge?

He who addresses these suggestions to Christian friends, would state particularly that there appears to be exceedingly strong reason for adopting the meetings which have been spoken of, arising from the spirit of worldliness which has been growing in this country, and which recent prosperity as to outward things has called forth, to an extent that will be highly detrimental to vital religion, if it is not counteracted. The population of Canada is made up of mixed people from many lands; and accessions are continually being made to them; earthly motives bring them here, under a strong desire to better their circumstances; there is ample scope for the exercise and fostering of a secular disposition; rich harvests and high prices of late, along with the vast demands opened up by facilities of transit through the land, on railways, &c., have given an impetus to the popular mind, which, if not balanced by moral and religious means, will greatly endanger the future welfare of our people, both as to personal and general religion. And there are many appearances on the face of society, indicating much ground for such an apprehension. It is the special duty, then, of those who would be found on the right side, and in the position of spiritual safety to themselves, their families, and the interests of Christ's kingdom, to do what they can in helping to stem the tide of earthliness, pride, sensuality, and a great deal more, which has set in over the land. Among other things done by them with this view, and as necessary to cause success to their endeavours, let them wrestle with God, in their closets, and at social meetings, for the pouring forth of his restraining, converting, and sanc-