

God hides them no man can show them to us. There are four expressions in the Bible showing how God hides sin, "As far as the east is from the west so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." Astronomers tell us there are stars whose light has not reached the earth, though light travels at the rate of 180,000 miles per second. If God takes our sins and hurls them to the end of that vast space, there is no fear that any man can find them to bring them back to us. Another expression is that "He will cast them into the depths of the sea." I think it was Bunyan who thanked God that it was a sea and not a river, as a river might dry up and expose the sins, while the sea never dries up. Another expression is that "He will blot them out as a thick cloud." See a cloud to-day, look for it to-morrow and it is gone. You can never see that cloud again; you may see another cloud in its place, but it is not the same. "For Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back." That is a safe place to have them. It is not behind my back. Satan can get there anytime, but God hurls them behind His back. When God forgives He makes complete work of it. The words are—"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities." If I had a hundred sins and God forgives me ninety-nine it would not help me much. I sometimes think we do not really know what the word forgive means. People say they can forgive but not forget. God forgets as well as forgives. It is a blessed thing to be forgiven by God. Our sins are never allowed to be brought up. Some think they are honoring God by constantly lugging up their sins asking to be forgiven. They think it shows humility. It is a sign of unbelief. Do you think God is pleased to have sins brought before Him which He has already forgiven. If my child asks me to forgive a sin to-day and I consent, and she comes to me to-morrow and the next day, and so on for days and weeks, asking to be forgiven, does she show me honor? If God has forgiven our sins that is sufficient. Mr. Moody then read the 11th and 12th verses of this Psalm, and passing on to the 13th verse read, "Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways." He said:—Let us not pass over the word "then" too quickly. I don't believe a man is fit for God's service until he is full of joy. A man or woman who is going to be successful in the Lord's vineyard does not go to work like a slave, but with rejoicing. Men talk about duty. I have heard about duty until I have wished that it could be abolished from all church work. If it is love that moves us we will work with power. We must remember we are going to teach transgressors the way of righteousness. What this world wants to-day above everything else is a joyful church, then you will have a victorious church: but you are not going to conquer this world with long faces. Members of the church should shout for joy. Were we not joyful on the day of our conversion? Go into some churches and you would think you were at a funeral. People talk about breaking down with the Lord's work. It is worry, fretting, not work that breaks them down. I have seen sick people get well when they were full of joy. It is the best medicine people can have. Many talk as if the words said, "Enter thou into the misery of the Lord," not into the joy. Mr. Moody continued to read to the 15th verse:—"Oh Lord open thou Thy lips and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise." It is easy to speak, he said, when God opens our lips. God will never open your mouth without giving you the message that the world wants. Mr. Moody read the 16th verse and said:—A good many are willing to bring a bleeding lamb to God, but God wants themselves on the altar. Mr. Moody read the remaining verses of the Psalm. He next turned to the

139th Psalm, 2nd verse: "Search me, O God." That is personal. We are all willing to pray to God for other people; to ask Him to search the minister or the churchwardens, or the elders, but let us get a little nearer Him to-day. This is a prayer we should make: "Search me, O God, and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts." There is a great deal of difference between our searching ourselves and God searching us. You may set your heart and pronounce it all right, but when God searches us it will be different. I was very much struck about what I was reading in a book called "The Training of the Twelve." The writer brings out this thought, that Christ spent most of his time for three years in training three men. Yet they showed their selfishness by quarrelling about who should be the greatest in His kingdom. It takes a good deal of grace to enable us to give up everything for Christ, to count Him all and ourselves nothing. It took a great deal of grace to enable John the Baptist to fade away like the morning star when the Son of God appeared; to be able to say that he was nothing and Christ was everything, and to be satisfied that the crowds which followed him yesterday should follow Christ to-day. Let us ask God to search us to-day, for self is the great obstacle to our spiritual progress. When Christ was going to Capernaum to the twelve they got into a dispute as to who among them should be the greatest. That quarrel has been going on in the Church ever since—a quarrel as to who should be greatest. A little while afterwards, when they were going to Jerusalem, the disciples again disputed by the way. They were a little ashamed to confess that the dispute was over the same matter. Even when Christ was going to be crucified they renewed it, when they should have been sympathising with the Master in the suffering which He told them He was to undergo. One of the saddest things in the Bible is in Luke's gospel, when Christ instituted the Supper and the shadow of the cross was upon Him. Judas was about to betray Him, Peter to deny Him; and even then there arose a dispute as to who was to be the greatest in the kingdom. As I read the passages it scarcely seems possible that men should be so selfish; and yet if those men who sat at the feet of Christ for three years could be so selfish, we have reason to fear that selfishness will be in our hearts also. Let us pray earnestly that God will search us to-day and show us our own hearts, and see if selfishness is keeping back a blessing, because if we are going to take glory to ourselves God will not use us. I firmly believe so few are used, and we have so little power, because we have taken the glory to ourselves, and because we have self. Let us pray against self. Let us pray God that we may know what it is to be crucified with Christ. To be dead to the applause of the world, dead to everything that belongs to this world, dead to unholy ambition and self-seeking, and abuse to God, and let us learn that He who would be greatest must be content to be the least. That is what Christ taught, exactly the opposite to what the world has always taught. What we want is that Christ-like spirit.

The benediction was pronounced.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

MR. MOODY delivered an address. He said:—I want to call your attention to the work of the Holy Spirit. The first thing the Spirit of God does when He begins to work upon a soul is to convince that soul of sin. "When He comes He will convince the world of sin and righteousness and judgment." Of sin, not because men