

change the accepted love of God has wrought in their own hearts and lives, appears to most of the hearers little short of miraculous ; and when it is not a young man but an old world-hardened sinner who tells the story of this blessed change, the miracle seems even greater. "I once thought," a man would say, "that it would be utterly impossible for me to stand up and talk Christianity from this platform, but as soon as I had it in my heart I found I could do it at once." As all formality is discountenanced, the "soldiers" may be as unconventional in their phraseology as their hearts desire, and slang is often freely used by lips to which it is second nature, in a way that shocks ears accustomed to hear religion talked only in decorous and refined language. Frequently a humorous remark, or an odd expression, will set both "soldiers" and audience laughing, and again by a sudden turn both will be touched almost, if not quite, to tears. As each soldier finishes his "testimony," it is usual for the captain to strike in with an appropriate verse of a hymn in which all join, sometimes repeating a chorus over some eight or ten times, just as the impulse directs, while one or two more stand waiting to speak until the hymn is finished. There is no routine, and, within certain limits, variations are constantly occurring, so that at least there is no fear of monotony. After the meeting has lasted for an hour and a-half or two hours, the leaders and soldiers come down from the platform and kneel on the floor of the hall in a perfectly informal prayer-meeting for the salvation of souls. The bulk of the audience retires, and the captain and her lieutenants go about, talking earnestly to the more interested few who remain, and persuad-