

ing service, except in one or two centres for evangelical purposes, induce Christians to cultivate more during the Sunday evening "the church in the family," and give instead of the evening service an afternoon exercise in the form of a Congregational Bible Class, where, by a system of mutual questioning and answering, a greater personality might be given to the Spirit speaking through the Word, and where individual difficulties and wants would be more directly met. There can be little doubt but that we need more expository preaching, that the demand for eloquent talk and interesting sermons does much to cultivate smart sayings rather than wise, high pressure appeals rather than earnest truthfulness, and open the pulpit door to the flippant and the charlatan. Life is pitched generally on the high key, and the pulpit expected to be "up to the times." Yet the old divines expressed sound principles and permanent when they declared that "The Spirit of God maketh the teaching, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith unto salvation." "Preach the word," was Paul's injunction to his son Timothy.

No hard and fast rule can be laid down for Christian work. There are circumstances, especially in the rural districts, where a Sunday service in which the members of a Christian congregation may with profit "edify one another," and not constantly leave to one man, who by no means has ever a monopoly of spiritual power, the performance of all the ministering; there is danger on the other hand, in large and open Bible classes, that loquacity and self-conceit may minister questions which gender strife. This much is certain, and it was the great point to which the discussion led, the "foolishness of preaching" (not foolish preaching), and that preaching based upon the Word of God is that which the church should demand and encourage from its pulpit, which is not a rostrum, nor a stage, nor even a platform, but a seat from which the ambassador for Christ can ever send forth the certain sound, "Thus saith the Lord."

HERE is the way our American friends keep their mission work before their churches; we

may not have as big a spread, but the same principles apply. Mr. Hall's letters and work will be largely supplemented if our churches take the hint and go doing likewise. Let the *Home Mission* tell its own tale.

HOME MISSIONARY CONCERT EXERCISE.

This page is designed to aid Home Missionary concerts, and especially the prayer-meetings of the Woman's Home Missionary Societies.

California.

1. History? Under Spain, Mexico and the United States? When admitted into the Union?

2. Length and breadth? It extends as far north as the southern line of Massachusetts, and nearly as far south as the southern point of South Carolina. Laid across Europe, it would extend from London to Venice, or from London across France and well into Spain.

3. Area? It is as large as Italy, England and Greece. It has fifty-two counties, whose average size is about three-quarters of Connecticut.

4. Describe the surface. Two principal mountain ranges? Rivers? Lakes? Yosemite Valley? The "big trees"?

5. Climates and rainfall?

6. Resources and industries? Arable lands estimated at 60,000,000 acres; grazing lands, 40,000,000 acres more. In 1872 the forest areas were 9,604,607 acres. Gold! From its discovery to Jan. 30, 1881, the State had produced \$1,170,000,000 of gold. Its annual product is nearly equal to that of all the other States and Territories. Other minerals abound. The "New Almaden" quicksilver mine is the richest in the world. It has produced as high as 3,500,000 pounds per annum. There were raised in 1880, 45,760,000 bushels of wheat. One-third of the barley crop of the United States is grown in California. As yet less than one fifteenth part of the arable land is under cultivation. Fruits? Every variety of fruit known to the temperate and semi-tropical zones grows luxuriantly. Stock-growing? The best sheep-raising country in the world, next to Australia. In 1879 the wool-clip was 46,903,360 pounds. Bee-culture. The catch of salmon in 1880 was 10,837,400 pounds.

7. Railway system?

8. Population? Increased 54.34 per cent. from 1870 to 1880. There are 4.57 persons to the square mile. With as dense a population as New York, California would contain 20,410,000 souls; if as dense as Massachusetts, 40,064,000; if as dense as England and Wales, 83,513,000. The Chinese?

9. Religion? Catholic population in 1880, 216,000; all Protestant denominations (twenty-three in number), 51,969.

10. How many churches and missionaries have we in California? Churches, ninety-two. Last year forty-three missionaries stately supplied ninety-nine churches and out-stations.

References to sources of information are given. Will some one contribute a like exercise for our Canadian lands?

A GREAT many of our readers will be in-