

and only two, which seem legitimate and useful. I mean the kindly visitation of the homes of the people, and the faithful, living, and earnest preaching of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am aware that there is another method of which one hears a good deal, namely, what is called "attractive services;" that is to say, having a first-rate choir, thoroughly well trained, and getting them to perform the very best music that can be learnt in the very best possible style. I have no doubt that such a method may prove, in a certain sense, attractive. People with musical tastes may be drawn to listen to such performances with satisfaction, with admiration, even with that disposition of mind that will make them willing to pay for the expense of the performance; and if you wish to turn your churches into concert rooms, you could not, perhaps, adopt a better method. But you will not in this way win the masses of the people to the services of the Church, nor will you educate real worshippers of any class whatever. It will be seen, therefore, that I do not regard these so-called "attractive services" as any contribution towards a solution of the question before us.

The two things which, it has been said, will be legitimate and efficacious, are visiting and preaching; and in connection with these we should refer to special missions—what in England are commonly called "parochial missions." These missions—by whatever name we call them—are sometimes carried on in an isolated manner in a single parish, but more commonly—in the larger towns at least—in a number of adjoining parishes at the same time. There can be no doubt that they have been greatly blessed of God wherever they have been carried on with ordinary prudence and devotion, and they have almost always fulfilled the reasonable expectations of those who have taken part in them. Several points may be noted as essential to success: First, a careful devotional preparation on the part of the clergy and churchwardens of the parish or district in which the mission is held. In the case of a number of parishes being united, there should be devotional meetings both for the particular parishes and for the whole district, so that all may feel that they are engaged in a common work, and also that they may be impressed with a sense of their own particular duties. Secondly, there should be a thorough and repeated visitation of the parishes, and of every house in the various parishes or districts in which the mission is held. This should consist partly in the distribution of handbills and tracts, setting forth the object of the mission and its importance, and affectionately inviting all to be present at the services. This visitation should commence some time before the holding of the mission, and should be continued at short intervals up to the time of its commencement, and day by day, and even oftener, during its continuance. There is hardly ever any difficulty in getting workers to take part in this preparation, which seldom presents any difficulties to those who are engaged in it. A third requisite is a preacher, who need not be a man of great learning or eloquence, but who must know how to speak plainly, earnestly, and directly to the conscience of his hearers. He should at least be a man who believes in preaching as God's method of reaching men's hearts, and who will speak to his hearers as one who has no doubt that he has a message from God to them. With regard to the