

and strengthen; to bring the individual face to face with his own inner life; to gird each member for greater usefulness, and rouse to more earnest zeal in Christian work. The exercise that can best conserve this end is most to be valued and employed.

No dull, prosaic sound of spiritual duty will effect this. No mere methodical routine will avail, no long, cold, formal, speech-making experience will answer. There are some who think they have a special mission to harangue in the class-meeting. It would rather seem as if they had a special mission to kill. Against these the wise leader will ever be on his guard, and will, if possible, so direct the exercises of the hour, that such a one will have it to say: "I was as a dumb man that openeth not his mouth."

It might be well if these long-winded friends would occasionally follow the example of the colored parson who, when asked whether he intended taking a few weeks' vacation in the summer, replied: "Accordin' to present program, yas sir, I am gwine to hab de fust furlôw dat I've 'joyed de last lebben year."

"Indeed," was the answer; "then you must certainly feel as if your brain needed rest."

"Not zactly, sah," was the reply, "not zactly. You see I aint fishiatin' with dat sort o' congregation dat 'quires any brain intment. All dey wants is just plain old-fashioned revival zortin', dat kind don't 'quire any brain rest. No sah! I'se jest gwine off ter rest my mouth."

No sombre service that shuts the door and pulls down the blinds, and welcomes the shadows, seemingly implying that solemnity, dulness and melancholy are synonymous with goodness, will promote the desired end, but a service that is warm, joyous, crisp and earnest, spontaneous and practical, full of soul and full of song. A singing class that sings with the spirit as well as with the understanding, will seldom fail to be a successful class.

"Class-meetings," says good old Daniel Quorum, "be like awls and needles, they'll go so long as ever you can keep 'em bright, but when they get dull they'll rust, and then it be