

"Preparation classes are indispensable. They are not less important to our teachers than is preparatory training to our ministers, and should be as conscientiously attended to. Where possible—and I must be pardoned if, considering the importance of the matter, I say it ought to be made possible, even at a large cost of time, and strength, and thought—it should be in the hands of the minister. This is about all he can do, actively, for the school; but with this, and by his counsel, and sympathy, and frequent reference to teachers and their charge, in his prayers and preaching, he will keep the fact of their existence and operations before his own mind and the minds of his people. For otherwise, in these days of separate services, the majority of the congregation would know little about them, and think and pray less.

"I wish I could impress the minds of teachers with my own estimate of the vast importance of their work, and awaken a trembling dread of the responsibility they assume which should lead to most determined efforts to meet it by diligent preparation. Our watchword must be, 'A more instructed, disciplined, specially trained class of teachers; and so a more efficient staff of workers.'"

The remainder of the address is largely devoted to the question of ministerial support, and the desirableness of establishing a Sustentation Fund, for which we have not space. But we must find room for the following *words of encouragement* to all who are engaged in the Lord's work:

"At times some of you, looking at your limited sphere of labour, may imagine that you do little towards the cultivation of the whole field, and are disheartened. Yet are you dropping, day by day, some precious seeds into the soil, it may be with tears, yet also with the hope that the Master you serve will cause them to take root. 'They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.' Few around you may observe your quiet, unostentatious labours, or care much for them, if they do; but one Eye follows you, watching your movements, and one Ear listens to the prayer that goes up from a heart sometimes faint in the midst of toil, that through all discouragement you may persevere, and not be paralyzed by disappointment or want of great success. Over each worker, not privileged to see the progress he desires, and for which he yearns and prays, a loving face is bending, and gracious words fall: 'Thou didst well, that it was in thy heart.' 'For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love.'"

## DR. PARKER ON ORGANIZED CONGREGATIONALISM.

The Rev. Dr. Parker, of the City Temple, London, read a paper on this subject at the second session of the English Union, in which he takes the ground that "there is a danger of organizing independency too elaborately. Organization we must, of course, have; on that point there can be no difference of opinion; but my contention in this paper will be that the organization of Congregationalism should be kept down to the very lowest point, so as to preserve most scrupulously all that is distinctive of our church doctrine and life."

Independency, in his opinion, "is not so much a form as a power. It is something like Liberalism in politics. Conservatism is nothing if not highly organized; it is literally a party—a thing systematized, ordered, disciplined and obedient. It is not so with Liberalism. Liberalism is an instinct rather than a party; hence it unites and falls to pieces; 'tis something, nothing, as the spirit or the need of the times may require or determine. It is much the same with Independency. Independency is not a standing army principally occupied in combing horses (laughter and cheers)—it is a free population of patriots in undress, needing only the merest hint of danger to develop and evoke its courage. Hence I am jealous of any organization that is in excess of its power; it tends to corruption and to the alienation of strength from the pursuit of useful objects."

Then, after speaking of Organized Congregationalism, (1) In relation to public opinion; (2) In relation to the ministry; he thus spoke of it (3), in relation to itself: