

the requirements of various ages and nationalities." "Fellowship" was a fixed ordinance of the Primitive Church, and signifies "mutual recognition, counsel, help, familiar association and intercourse on friendly and equal terms, mutual edification." In a word, "fellowship" represents "the communion of saints" on earth. It will be seen from this that the question for the consideration of the Church is how best to secure this "fellowship." What is the best means of edifying one another, exhorting, warning, sympathizing, teaching, comforting and admonishing each other, and confessing faults and praying one for another. This was the work that was accomplished by "fellowship" in the early Church, and the Class-meeting, or a similar institution, should be made the means of providing for "the communion of saints" in the Church of to-day. The Class-meeting is not an essential element in the constitution of a Christian Church, but *fellowship* is; and, therefore, some mode of maintaining it is indispensable.

The communion of saints, then, being alike a privilege and a duty, the Methodist Church provides for its members in the Class-meetings a means by which the scriptural conditions of membership in the Church of God may be made complete so far as "fellowship" is concerned. Without dwelling upon the importance and value of the Class-meeting, as at present conducted, it may be observed that the highest ideal of excellence in Class-meeting methods has not been attained, and that there may have been a tenacious sticking to old forms that has placed the Class out of harmony with the thought and feeling of the age. That the essayists make some suggestions for the improvement of Class-meetings may, therefore, be expected.

At a Conference held 130 years ago, John Wesley being in the chair, it was asked, "Can anything be done to make the meetings of the Classes more lively and profitable?" We again ask the question, and shall seek an answer with the experience and need of our own time. "The best institutions are apt to degenerate, and, therefore, they should be occasionally overhauled and adapted to the ever-changing necessities of the times." We must apply Scripture principles to new conditions as they come into existence.