they led hundreds to Jesue. And why we it? It was because they were filled via God's Spirit, and clothied with spiritual pow If we intend to be useful in the same des verance from flesh, ility to the will of blessed example ; If we intend to be useful in the same dense we must pay the same price, we must dense this blessing of spiritual power by agoning prayer. To my dear brother laymen I would say I believe in every man working for Go in personal service, not merely in drawn observes and laying guineas on the relation ent in the matter. I icately scrupled at expression, and I is right to speak of have taken a text in personal service, not merely in drawin cheques and laying guineas on the plate, be in working for God in our places of business a blind man and sight, and then, our shops, and in railway carriages; in wo e us for a little our shops, and in railway carriages; in work ing for God wheresoever we are brought in contact with our fellow-men. One of the is state, which is it was, that we contact with our ienow-men. One of the speakers has alluded to the fact that we don't speakers the blessing of God after of the struggle speakers has alluded to the fact that we don't always expect the blessing of God after our services. I should like to say we ought us only to expect large congregations, but large He touches him an clearly. In the face of the expeonly to expect large congregations, but large ingatherings of souls. If we expect it and pray for it we shall see it. If I have said athers, in the face udes now living, pray for it we shan see it. If in a say in anything to give any offence-all I can say in anything to give any and all my desire is to a astinct, the hope anything to give any offence—all I can sayin I love Methodism, and all my desire is to see her prosper and her numbers increase. We have had a glorious past, and I believe we thy heart. I will phraseology ression. Oh. Mr. have had a giorious past, and i believe we shall have a still more glorious future. If we only seek to be filled with the Spirit of God ethren, that we cession! Oh, only seek to be filled with the Spirit of God, if we only grasp in prevailing faith the arm of the omnipotent Jehovah, I believe we could throw mmon stream! that we shall bring down such showers of high to the althat we shall oring down such showers of blessings that we shall hear no more of de-creases, and neither the world, the flesh, nor eration, where sacrifice still the devil shall stand against us. ar Saviour of-The Rev. E. E. Jenkins said : I may not be able to say what it is in my mind to say with regard to our decrease, much as it may be hat we may explained. Some suggestions have been of fered to assist us to explain it. One of the then would advantages of this conversation is that each, as it were takes a different view of the position of the Connexion, and is likely to render a service to the conversation from his particular standpoint. I am disposed at this mo-Int strenk of ment to ask myself, Sir, whether, if I had n my heart. been more faithful during the past year, more vn words deligent in my public duties, more saintly in family, more rigid in my chamber discipline, more appealing in my intercessions at the throne of grace, whether there would time, have have been such a decrease as there is. It seems to me that the fidelity of one of us attrong words sponse than feets even the question of a large decrease. concerning It seems to be so. Brethren, it is good for iduality. It us to be here at this moment, because we represent the entire Connexion. We, under at we become but when we God, are the power that first brings souls to st, he gives Christ, and consequently keeps them for be sanctified. Christ. We are the masters of the several nsecrated to organizations of our circuits. It has been prosper; if said that there is no system so perfect in its throughout organization and appliances as Methodism, ponwealth in and yet we come to find fault with it: the earth, and yet by finding fault with it we are h the will of advancing to a wonderful symmetry. But one of us this is not the power which prevents decrease or the power which commands increase. Let every man look into his own heart at this and must moment. In the presence of Christ, who has isiness it is been set before us with such tenderness and entirely to h this indi-clearness by Dr. Pope, under the eye of the I have . sin-seeker [and I include myself, and I wish that we should feel that we are all together at this moment drawing nigh to the throne of times: we grace], let each one of us confess secretly in on, and I the chamber of the heart and the ear of the eit to be Saviour the sins of the past year. I have not stripped a word of fault to find with anybody but my-self, or with anything except the thing which and en. we would I have been touching this year; and in this it would spirit I desire to be present during this conting the versation. I am sure of one thing, that the zeal, full increase of the next year is in our power. it all that There is not a part of the Connexion which The we don't touch either at home or abase which filled with the spirit of holy penitence, the repentance of believers, and of God for Jesu's r expects | sake, the theme of the preacher, the foundaup to this tion of the society would forgive my sins, and this im- tell me so, and bear as he often has done, a doption this moment and fill me with the Holy Ghost. I know, sir, what I should be and what I should do from the moment this conversation ends. And if God spare me through the months of another year my own department of work, so far as I am concerned, would be more powerful. ly rendered and my life more hallowed, and I should not let souls slip if I had the power at one of picking them up. Does any one tell me e heart that if he was filled at this time with the , incer- Holy Ghost, whether he be a leader, steward or counsellor in a circuit, or possessed of pulpit power in the circuit, and should go back and work during the year under that influence uninterruptedly. that next year we should report a decrease? Impossible. Because not only would every man live near to God, but his own conscientiousness tenderly touched would carry him into every organizaavocation and would follow him everywhere. I say and to that a man in that state of mind would sigh postle for fellowship-sigh for fellowship, thirst for Lord. it, and our class-meetings would be strong; he reiis one they would become class-meetings and not very reluctant church forms. I earnestly and devoutedly ask for myself that God at this moment may baptize me as a servant of the Church and send me forth to my work for the year, and beginning at this moment filled with the spirit of holiness and power and a sound mind. Mr. Harrison, who spoke with deep feeling, which moved the whole Conference, said: I shall go back to my circuit to give myself to the work of seeking and saving souls. If we, as represen-tatives of our Conversion each one of he give ourflow tatives of our Connexion, each one of us, give ourselves away to be the Lord's, and live under this spiould , and go back to our different societies resolved verv that, by the help of God, we will leave no effort untried, we will not shrink from any known duty. · Th Thy we will watch as those who must give an account to God in our own families, in our praces of busiwing. to God in our own families, in our praces of busi-ness, amongst the young people in our schools, and that portion of our congregations who wor-ship regularly with us and are yet undecided, if z that o the we seek for opportunities kindly and affectionatey to speak to our fellow worshippers as to the necessity of personal surrender to Christ, if we do this, I don't think we shall have to mourn over a rofit decrease. The question has been asked, Has ring Methodism lost its power over the masses? I say no. If we Methodist people will follow the old lines, and go with the old story of the Cross, there love verv ould is a response in the worst of hearts. We have v in seen it in our street-preaching. The most aban-doned characters, when we have brought the truth kindly and lovingly before them, have been two ase. made to weep as little children. It has not been an unusual thing to see men in the open air ask that ndiwhat shall we do to be saved? I know of one place where the free scats are becoming too strait, and and we must have more free seats, for the poor are thronging to hear the word of God. If we akelfeel our individual responsibility of working in all he means of grace, assisting our ministers when the means of grace, assisting our ministers when they announce a prayer meeting, and not leaving it to a few at the close of the Sabbath, and if in our week night meetings, and other means of grace, we are willing individually to seek to save Jouls, I am confident we shall not be without fruit. God has promised his blessing, and he is fruit. faithful who has promised. My heart has been oppressed while I have thought of our Zion languishing, and the faith of many becoming feeble. But these things shall not be. God is with us. His Spirit is with us. And if we, the laymen, go back consecrated to God, and seeking for greater back consecrated to God, and seeking for greater nearness to God, our families will feel it. Souls are perishing on every hand. The old Methodist spirit was, The love of Christ constraineth me, and under the influence of that love I go back to spend and to be spent for God. The Rev. G. Bowden said there was one matter which was a burden upon his heart. He wished

closer communion

to say it very lovingly, and in order that office bearers might hold up cach others hands in the matter. There were forms of worldliness prematter. There were forms of worldniess pre-railing in Methodist families in different parts of the kingdom against which it was their duty to protest. There were gentlemen who went to the theatre in Paris and in London. The went to the theatre in Farls and in London. The habit of card-playing was no strange frivolity in some houses. Dancing was a regular thing. some houses. Now while Methodists, who should be examples of spirituality and love to Jesus and love to souls. were thus acting, could they wonder at decrease were thus acting, could they would a latterease? Then in the young men's mutual improvement associations, sometimes in their bands of hope, and even in their Sunday-school festivities, had they not follies over which they ought to mourn? Had they not newspaper paragraphs in which it was reported very disgraceful songs were sung? And thus the energy of our young men was being expended in providing diversions, when that same energy put into spiritual work, to the gathering of classes and the winning of souls, would in-crease their numbers. It had cost him a great dent put us upon the right track when he prevented us from mercly comforting ourselves by as-suring ourselves that the decrease was a thing not to be minded. I believe it is a thing to be minded, and very seriously minded; but not a thing to be discouraged about. The loss of courage is always a loss of force. But it is a thing to be concerned about, to make us look in-ward. I have been greatly encouraged by the fact that the first three lay speakers were all Uniand one Dublin, and one London. Now I don't think any of them had lost the Methodist tone. I say there are encouragements in that. If we all go away in the enjoyment of the blessing Dr. Pope spoke about, we shall see a good year. \* The President said : I bless God I have heard this conversation, and I am certain that the report of it cannot go out to the Connexion without doing great good. We cannot have listened to it ourselves without feeling a sense of responsibility and high aspiration. There is one point to which I must refer—the question of family worship. I shall justify my naming it here from the fact that when I was on a missionary deputation I stayed at the house of a high official, and when I asked when family worship would take place, I was told that they had no family worship. The blighting effects of impure blood are sad to behold in those we meet day by

lates the bowels.

own families.

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