

THE DEDICATION OF ALL-SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

A re-awakened responsibility leads to a renewed dedication of all gifts to the Master of the assembly. A living meeting is not moulded according to prescribed pattern, but by the Master's own hand. Many spiritual gifts have a right place in it, if exercised in a fresh sense of God's love and of the puttings-forth of His Spirit. Let us open our hands to receive and use all His good and perfect gifts. There is especially a place to-day for the gift of religious teaching, which may greatly promote that comprehensive grasp of truth and enlightened knowledge of the Holy Scripture, which the Church is responsible to God for giving to its members.

A meeting moulded, week after week, by the Master's own hand, may rightly vary greatly in external features from time to time; at one time, for example, having much living silence and offerings directed to the building up of Christian character and the fuller dedication of heart to God; and at another being mainly occupied with earnest Gospel preaching and testimony to Jesus. The right holding of our meetings is not to be judged by their adherence to routine, but by the exercise in them "unto edifying," and under the control of the Holy Spirit, of spiritual gifts. Varied gifts thus exercised will be kept in their true harmony and proportion; and the variety will enrich, without enfeebling, the life of the meeting. The right exercise of gifts depends largely on the whole congregation. Ministry is often a tender plant, easily blighted by the cold breath of unloving criticism, but expanding in the genial warmth of sympathetic souls. May all be much in prayer, both before and during meeting, that the Lord Himself may speak and all wrong utterance may be hushed.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONGREGATION.

We have spoken of the corporate life of our meetings, the solidity of the gathered Church. This entails corporate responsibilities, and there seem to be directions in which the exercise of such responsibilities should be encouraged at the present time. Arrangements for the visitation of small meetings and for the distribution of the ministry may be often most wisely made. Ministers and meetings alike benefit by the freshness that attends such visits; and the occasional absence from his regular meeting of a Friend on whose ministry the congregation may unduly lean is of great service in spreading responsibility and calling out other gifts. In the visiting of small meetings we would encourage

ministers
Further, v
largely res
ing the h
forth enli
special cla
there shou
but also of
to expect t
for us. A
tio n unde
ful collecti

We have
—from vil
was never
hearts, as
below our
tion of ser
we hear th
ourselves t
and we our
is no failu
owe all tha
this gift—
stewardshi
ing? Is n
little we c
lives—but
cumstance
may sancti
gregations
of saving t

SI