

the joy, or from the heavenly mindedness with which he comes in contact. Isolation could not possibly accomplish such ends; so the over-ruling Spirit has guided to a better order of things; and the communion of saints has become a living reality.

Both the graces of the Spirit bestowed on the brotherhood, and the loving association of these disciples, are a mighty instrumentality to help the soul in its spiritual struggles. These come betimes to all. The inexperienced need counsel. The timid need protection. Those downcast need lifting up. What better method could exist than the Church meeting we have shown to be the the New Testament ideal of the local Church, for such a purpose. The nature of the thing assures us of its adaptation to such purposes; and the experience in our own time in all the branches of Methodism has demonstrated its importance.

Can all this be true, and there be no ground for believing in a divine ordering? And does not such a fact greatly strengthen the testimony we have produced for this method of Church life and operation? The Scripture evidence needs no such support as matter of proof; but the fact serves to give completeness to the picture presented for our observation. And it may serve to reconcile some opposing thought, that still holds its sway from the force of education in another direction on this subject. Devout gratitude becomes us for such perfect provision for the spiritual needs of all classes of souls gathered into the spiritual fold.