

Brown and Mr. Henry Doulton varied the entertainment by very effective readings from the poets, among them Shelley's description of a cloud, Wordsworth's "Idiot Boy," Longfellow's "Psalm of Life" and "Village Blacksmith," and Hood's "Song of the Shirt." The evening was closed with family worship, and a few earnest Christian words from Mr. Riddle, the city missionary of the district, and the company separated about half-past nine, highly delighted with their treat. We understand that the meetings are to be continued fortnightly, and most heartily we wish them success.

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**THE WEEKLY OFFERING.**—The Rev. John Ross, of Hackney, who has during the past seven years and a half advocated "storing God's portion and weekly offering," in hundreds of Independent, Baptist, and Presbyterian Churches, in asking for information of realized results, to enable him to prepare a tabular statement, says, in a recent letter to the *Nonconformist* :

"The superior power of 'storing God's portion,' besides its happy influence on the giver's heart, only to be known by practice, must be seen in facts, in order to its full appreciation. The following fact may serve to indicate it. Last Sabbath a congregation collected, for a given object, a sum which surprised and gratified all who heard of it, except one of limited means, who, besides bearing his part in this effort, had, from the Lord's store a few days previously, presented to the same object above one fifth of this whole amount.

"Waiting for a train lately in a provincial town, I called on a gentleman in a large wholesale business whose guest I once was. He instantly observed, 'You are quite right, fourteen of us who store now give as much as the whole congregation gave formerly. I am sure I never should give in quarterly sums what I now give in weekly amounts; but the sense of gratitude for what I receive, and of happiness in devoting it to God, is a rich compensation for it.'

"While some of our most liberal givers are suggesting to me the urgent need of our ministers taking this matter seriously in hand, instances are not wanting of the generous admission of this opinion among ministers of superior influence. Within a week such an admission has been made by one who does not mean to let his statement terminate with myself. But nothing that has occurred for a long time has so cheered and gratified me as your own candid admission to me yesterday that you believe this truth is extensively taking hold of the public mind."

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The Rev. C. H. Spurgeon delivered a lecture at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 1862. Subject: Miracles of Modern Times. The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury took the chair at seven o'clock. A choir of 600 children sang during the evening. The lecture was illustrated by a series of magnificent dissolving views, painted expressly for this lecture, and shown by first-class apparatus. By the kindness of Mr. Spurgeon the profits of the lecture were to be devoted to the funds of the Band of Hope Union.

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The new Archbishop of York, Dr. Thomson, has shewn his decided objection to Puseyite ornamentation in churches. On Friday, he objected to consecrate a church at Selsby-hill, near Stroud, until a floral cross had been removed from the "altar."

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**BISHOP COLENSO'S BOOK.**—Dr. Davis, secretary of the Religious Tract Society, writes to the *Record*:—

"In reference to your correspondent's, W. F.'s, hope that some competent person who can give more patient thought to it, and make more learned research than we can, who are occupied in populous places, will soon put forth a wise,