

"Many Christians," says a London exchange, "are now employed in evangelistic work, because all the stress is laid upon 'speaking;' and as only a few are supposed to have that gift, many a one who is endued with the Spirit of God, though not with a gift of that nature, is left out, and not invited to take part in meetings which are not, after all, attended by the class it is most wished to reach, and for whose benefit the addresses are chiefly composed. Our friends will be able to recall to their recollection the trouble and expense of hiring rooms, advertising, and many other preparations, and when, after all, the gathering consisted chiefly of those who already attend churches and chapels, and those who are already within the fold, while the careless, worldly, ungodly individuals are conspicuous by their absence, an excellent and stirring address intended for them is fired off, but it does not 'tell home.'

"If the Christians, instead of getting up the meeting, had resolved in an organized manner to make an onslaught on the numbers of unconverted persons close around them and on their path on every side, by individual Gospel-preaching and speaking wherever they could be found, a far more blessed result would probably have been arrived at.

"If this duty were more cheerfully and hopefully undertaken by Christians, so much more employment would be found for those who, comparatively, idle their precious time in paying the morning visit, and in recreations of various kinds, flattering themselves that there are so many agencies at work for good that their efforts are not required. But let them go forth into the 'streets and lanes of the city,' or into the 'highways and hedges' of the country, and they will soon find their mistake. The paid agency of the London City Mission does much good, but many districts are yet vacant, and in each one occupied there are needed the frequent visits of voluntary workers, both men and women, to supplement those of the missionaries, which are necessarily few and far between, considering also the necessity arising from the abounding wickedness, and that so small a portion of the people ever attend the stated means of grace or any meetings whatever. It is this latter fact which calls for personal dealing, especially with the men, who, owing to their hard daily work, the necessity of changing clothes, the fear of each other's opinion, the dread of committing themselves to a religious course, and other reasons, cannot be induced to come to meetings except in rare cases, such as the theatres in winter and on some special occasion, and to some extent during missions. If, however, earnest and faithful and judicious workers will only find them out during the dinner-hour, late of an evening, or on a Saturday afternoon, or during Sunday, the men will willingly respond, and will often open their hearts to kindly words of truth, and offer their objections or name their difficulties. How these were met in the two great Scriptural cases referred to is an example to every Christian who will put himself in the way of the sinner or of the inquirer, for if our Lord had not been 'in the way,' and ready and kind to give an answer, as well as to seek out the lost sheep, these two souls might, humanly speaking, never have been brought into the fold.

"There is, doubtless, a temptation thus to undervalue individual speaking, for the *kudos* of the public address, and the name in print, and the talk and commendation that often greet the chosen speaker, are far more attractive to the flesh—and some say is a less difficult task—than the necessity of exercising much quiet judgment and displaying special courage, which are involved in speaking individually. Let both efforts be cultivated, and though gifts may qualify one for the former, and another for the latter work, let each honour the other, and try to promote and further the work of each. At present, however, love and preferring one another, and believing in the latter department of work, are not carried out as they should be. Crowds of Christians will flock to hear