

neglect it is a sign of religious declension, and an evidence of the waning influence and power of godliness in the heart. It verily sheweth that piety has lost its lustre and is fading away:

Show also your attachment to the prayer-meeting: This has often proved a blessing to the unwary, as well as to the thoughtful and devout worshipper. At gatherings for public prayer many backsliders have been reclaimed, and strangers to religion brought to God. Here also young disciples have first essayed their gifts who have afterwards become prominent members of the Church. This religious service has brought a large revenue of grace and gifts to those who have exercised themselves in the performance of its privileges.

Need we remind you also of your duty as professing Christians to delight yourselves in the public service of the Sanctuary. We beseech you, dear Brethren, to be regular in your attendance on the ministry of God's Word. May you and your house in this respect serve God. Do not tarry away from the congregation of the Lord because others may vainly imagine that God may be worshipped as well at home in isolation and retirement from His people. This cannot be. Reason and religion stand opposed to this vain conceit.

The institution by God of the Sabbath and of Divine Worship under the different dispensations revealed to us in the Bible is a sufficient authority for our observance of Public Worship. Invalids and sick persons may be justly excused, but for those who are able to attend to raise a plea for their absence is a sad proof of religious indifference and of a want of reverence and delight for the house of prayer. Such conduct merits just censure and pious reprehension. It is at once averse and repugnant to feelings of godliness and religious sentiment. The devout worshipper of God, like David of old, will love the place where the Divine honour dwelleth. He will rejoice to dwell in the house of the Lord, and to behold the beauty of his temple. May you say, "How amiable are thy tabernacles O Lord of Hosts," or in the words of the Poet:—

"How lovely are thy tents, O Lord!
Where'er thou choosest to record
Thy name, or place thy house of prayer."

Do not neglect, when opportunities present themselves, to surround the table of the Lord. Meditate on the Saviour's words spoken to His disciples when He solemnly instituted this Divine Ordinance as recorded by the Evangelist: Matthew, Chap. xxvi., 26-28. May you then in obedience to the command of Christ, and also apostolical injunction, "Do this in remembrance" of Him, by which you will show forth His death till he come. The Church has always acknowledged the reality of this Holy