

months ago, had been greatly consolidated since they left. Many thought that when they left Newcastle there would be a great falling off at the union prayer meeting, and that by this time there would be hardly a daily prayer meeting at all; but he was glad to say that in this they had been entirely mistaken, for they were never better attended than they were before. The requests for prayer were quite as numerous as before, and their religious services most delightful and profitable. A wonderful spirit of unity had been poured out on the ministers and office-bearers of the town. He had arranged to have a union communion service, and for it 3500 tickets had been disposed of. At the largest meeting place where this service took place there were about two dozen ministers present, belonging to all evangelistic denominations. He had never felt nearer heaven than he did that night. He had long had it in his creed that he believed in the communion of saints; he now realised with his brethren in Newcastle what was meant by the communion of saints on earth.

Mr. Sankey urged the necessity of attention to the service of praise at the Prayer Meeting

Professor Blaikie gave some account of his observation on prayer meetings in America. Besides other meetings, he said he remembered the one for prayer when the General Assembly was sitting at Philadelphia. It was conducted very much according to the manner they had heard described by Mr. Moody; one person rose up, perhaps a minister, and offered prayer, then an elder would read a verse or two from some part of the Bible appropriate to the subject, and fitted to give encouragement, and next some one would start a hymn. In this way a degree of warmth and interest was kept up which was most interesting. He thought the prayer meetings here might become the means of much benefit, if pains were taken to conduct them in the manner now described. The element of praise was of great importance; it was fitted to make the meeting attractive, and it was fitted to warm the hearts of those who attended. He said that the meetings carried on in the Cowgate by the students in the New College had become warmer and more interesting from their increased attention to the singing. He thoroughly and entirely concurred with what had been said regarding the prayer meetings. He maintained, of course, the divine obligation and divine sanction of the office of the ministry, but alongside of it he most strongly held that it was the duty of all who had got gifts and graces from the Divine Head of the Church to endeavor in every way that presented itself to work for it.

Duties of Elders.

Mr. Moody was asked what he would recommend should be done in the case of elders who were obviously disinclined to work for Christ, and he replied that those elders in the Church of an opposite character should seek to raise the tone of the eldership by earnest and indefatigable labour amongst the congregation, and by this means either stir up the drones, or make the eldership too hot for them. They would either be led to join with the willing workers, or they would be driven to resign their posts when the disparity between what they did for the Master became so obvious. In answer to another questioner, Mr. Moody expressed a decided opinion against a church numbering amongst its members any unconverted persons. It should be the care of the elders to use every precaution against the admission of any such persons into the membership of a church. Of course absolute certainty in this matter was impossible, but nothing should be left undone to discover the real state of the case before so momentous a step as the admission of a person to the membership of a Christian Church was taken. Mr. Moody expressed his opinion that the visits of the elders to the homes of the people might be made much more agreeable and profitable. The mode of visiting was so generally cold, stiff, and formal that the approach of the elder to a house was often the signal for all the youngsters of the family to decamp until the infliction, as they thought it, was over. Now he had been in the habit, when he visited a family, of pulling out his Bible, and asking some of them if they had been doing anything in the way of studying this or that book or life; and when he found out what they had been reading last, he endeavoured to lead them into a familiar conversation on the subject. In this way he had an interchange of thought, and very often light was thrown on a book of the Bible or a Scripture character. In such ways, instead of the visit being regarded as tedious and uninteresting, it was welcomed and made profitable. Mr. Moody also spoke of the importance of the elders looking well after the young—giving youthful strangers in their churches a cordial greeting and kindly encouragement. He spoke too of the importance of setting the young members of the Church to work, saying that a minister who set fifty young men to work around him was a much wiser man than he who sought to do the work of fifty men and killed himself.

"What can I do for Christ?"

It was a sure sign of conversion to be anxious to work for the Master. This disposition should be encouraged and culti-