

mon practice of society. You will agree with me, I think, when I say it is a temptation we are prone to fall into.

No more in our visitations, than in our pulpits, are we to forget that we are dispensers of the Word of Life—that we are fishers of men.—When I say this I do not mean that we are to go from house to house with long drawn faces as if all the joy and gladness were crushed out of the world, or that it was an unpardonable sin to cough. Nor do I think it necessary to deliver a long homily on the sin of not keeping holy the Lord's day, or the sin of forsaking the assembling of themselves together as the manner of some is. Neither would I go so far as to say that the reading of Scripture and prayer should never be omitted although when circumstances will permit I feel it to be my duty. The simple question, why were you not at church last Sunday? Or why did you not partake of the holy Communion? Or why is it you are not a Communicant? is often more effective than anything else. For the answers they give to the questions afford you an opportunity of sending home in a quiet and loving manner an arrow that will stick fast, to give a blow with the sword of the Spirit, the word of God which is quick and powerful, and stronger than a two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing assunder of soul and spirit. This applies to those who come occasionally and irregularly to holy Communion, and to those who may come regularly to church and never to the Lord's table. But there are some in every parish or mission who are, if not atheists or infidels, spiritually dead, men and women who never think of entering a place of worship. These can be reached only by house to house visiting, and in connection with these we should ever remember our Lord's words, "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." "They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick."

Make their acquaintance, gain their respect, and win their friendship before this is done your words will be lost. It will be like casting pearls before swine. You may say this will take a long time. Yes it may take time and patience. But remember it is an immortal soul that you are seeking, a soul for which Jesus died. Also remember, it may be yours to exhort, to point out the way, but it is God the Holy Ghost's to convince and convert. Having gained their respect and won their friendship great care must be taken lest by impatience on our part, at their seeming tardiness, or by over zeal we attempt to hasten matters, we do not lose all we have gained.