

whose conversion I ask you to unite with me in praying.' The other replied that he also had a similar case on his mind, and it was mutually agreed that they would make them special subjects of prayer for ten days. On the tenth day one of the friends met the subject of his prayer in the street, and spoke to him about the interests of his soul, when the tears started, and with much emotion he told him that for ten days he had been under deep conviction, and was earnestly seeking the Saviour. On mentioning this to his friend, he was surprised to learn that the same thing had taken place with the one for whom he was so deeply concerned, *his* first impressions dating also from the same time as the other. They are now both rejoicing in hope."

Space will not allow of other instances; but these may suffice to show that God still hears and answers prayer. Let all who are waiting for "the promise of the Father," be encouraged to pray on. The answer will come,—all the more abundant because of seeming delay. "Though it tarry, wait for it." Let it no more be said,—"No one stirreth up himself to lay hold upon God," but let every believing heart stir up the gift that is in them, and soon the clouds will break in "shower of blessing." Lo, even now there is a "sound of abundance of rain."

THE CLASS MEETING.

BY H. C.



THE caption I have written may lead the readers to expect a homily on some text that has done duty in Scriptural defence of the class meeting. But I purpose nothing of the sort. It is equally superfluous to quote Scripture or look for apostolic precedent for the endorsement of the acknowledged worth and expediency of the class meeting, as to require written testimony that Mr. Wesley held prayer meetings in order to establish the propriety of believers meeting together for prayer.

Christian communion has proved itself productive of such results as are assured in the Scriptures; and as to the manner in which it is conducted, Methodism has not doubted the expediency of that form in which its fathers framed it. To set forth the value of this time-honored institution is not my intention. Abler pens have written its worth, and experience has gone deeper than the keenest pen can go, to become enriched beyond description. But it is because there is a painful decline in the popularity of the class meeting I am moved to write of it, and, if it be possible, to arrive at some of the causes of that decline. They may not be so chronic as to defy removal. To do this I purpose setting out on a tour of inspection, imagining as I do, that the difficulty may in part be traced to the institution itself. I must be pardoned, therefore, if with as pure a motive as ever put disguise on a detective for the apprehension of the faulty, I assume for the nonce the otherwise questionable tactics of an eaves-dropper or spy.