

That is to say for every one who attends. two go elsewhere, or remain at home.

To take a country charge. Communicants 100, attendance at prayer meeting 30. Brethren, these things ought not so to be.

In only one case in this presbytery is the attendance at prayer meeting greater than the number of names on the roll. Taking the figures as they stand, the result is, that *more than one-half* of our church members do not attend prayer meeting, while in certain individual congregations, the attendants of communicants is only one in three: one in four: and in one case only *one in five*. This is going on the supposition that all who attend are communicants, which experience teaches us is not the case.

With these facts before us we must conclude that the prayer meeting is considered of very little account by many professing Christians. Very little thanks are due to those who attend public worship on the Sabbath. They cannot engage in their usual employment upon this day, and by attending church at least once, a part of the day is passed quite pleasantly, provided the sermon is not too long.

On the week day evening the case is different. Places of amusement are open. the merchant thinks he cannot leave his business, or the farmer his particular work. The mechanic wishes to have recreation. Christian people have even been known to give dancing parties on the prayer meeting evening. Tithing was not far wrong when he said that some people in leaving the church Sabbath said, "Good bye religion I will be back next Sabbath." Surly, surely, we ought as Christians to be able to set apart one evening each week for prayer to Almighty God.

The attendance at prayer meeting is a good test of the amount of vital godliness in any community. In all cases of "revival" of religion, the attendance at the prayer meeting increases, and more are found willing to "take part" in the meetings. And what is the result of prayer? One result is that we bring God to our aid, and when we do this we have the *arm of omnipotence* on our side.

Long ago Jehovah declared to Jeremiah "call upon me (literally implore aid from from me) and I will answer thee and shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."

A few weeks ago I heard the expression used, "Oh, it is only a prayer meeting." Only a prayer meeting! What

great work of grace has ever been accomplished without prayer? Prayer *moves God to move the universe*. The "laws of nature," of which we have heard so much, are not the *chains* by which God is bound, by simply the *channels* in which he generally acts. They are subject to Him and not He to them.

"Prayer, ardent, opens heaven: lets down a stream  
Of glory on the consecrated hour  
Of man, in audience with the Diety."

### NOTES FROM THE IRISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The Rev. T. Y. Killen, of Belfast, Ireland, is the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, for the Present year.

Dr. W. Fleming Stevenson, the retiring Moderator, preached a grand sermon on the subject of *Missions*—propagation, expansion and universal penetration of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The constant drain of emigration begins to tell on the numbers on the communion-roll of the churches. The Presbyterian Church of Ireland has lost between seven and eight thousand members since this year 1874. There has been an increase in the same time in the Funds of the Church and the average salary of the ministers is now between \$900 and \$1,000. The Sustentation Fund has increased by a small sum this year.

It was mentioned in the Moderator's speech, as a matter of congratulation, that while the book of Dr. Robertson Smith on the Pentateuch was in its first edition, the reply of Dr. Watts had come to a third edition.

The majority against the use of instrumental music in worship, in the Irish Assembly was precisely 15, in a total vote of 705.

There are twenty ministers in the Irish Presbyterian Church who have been over fifty years in the ministry.

The Commutation Fund of the Irish Presbyterian Church, growing out of the surrender of the Regium Donum at the Disestablishment Act, amounts now to nearly \$3,000,000. Upon this sum there is chargeable at the present time *annuities* of the liabilities amounts to over \$1,425,000. The surplus of assets over liabilities amounts to over \$1,560,000. Evidently the Presbyterian Church of Ireland is, in this respect, a solvent institution.