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"ONE IS YOUR MASTER, *even* CHRIST: AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN."

### Moral and Religious Miscellany.

From the Rev. J. A. James.

#### A MODEL FEMALE BIBLE CLASS.

"In connection with the Sunday school belonging to my congregation, there has been for the last nineteen years, as I presume there is in all well conducted institutions of a similar nature, a female Bible Class, to which are transferred most of the great girls who are grown too old for the ordinary class of the school, and who, but for such an arrangement, would be sent away at an age when they most need watchfulness, and would, under proper care, be most likely to profit by instruction. The class in our congregation has been singularly happy in the ladies who have superintended it: their ability being equal to the deep interest they take in it, and their intense solicitude equal to their ability. Their heads and hearts are admirably balanced in the work. Having, as their pastor, for many years seen the value of their labors, in the transfer of many of their pupils to the church, I have felt it to be equally my duty and my privilege to encourage them in their work; and, as one way of doing this, I have once or twice authorised them to invite, in my name, and at my expense, all that were then, or ever had been, in their class, to a tea-meeting in our school-room. Five years ago, we had a meeting of this description, a detailed account of which was sent to the *Christian Witness*.

"I gave the second meeting of this kind on Jan. 16, and a beautiful scene it exhibited. Nearly 150 invitations were issued. There were 117 present, some of whom came from towns eight, nine, and twelve miles distant, and one, I was told, sixteen miles, to be present at the meeting. Of those who were not with us, twelve were detained by illness or peremptory domestic claims, three could not be spared by their employers, two did not receive their tickets in time, twelve have not as yet assigned any reason for absence.

"I have said it was a beautiful scene; how could it be otherwise? The guests, whether single or married, were all well-dressed, and, if somewhat *a-la-mode*, yet with no excess of finery unbecoming their circumstances. There were young married women, bringing their first child in their arms, and others,

with little children of older years, there, as pleased and happy as many a modest and lovely girl that sat by their side. Each seemed delighted to meet all, and all delighted to meet their pastors, and especially their teachers. A queen might have envied the serene and holy raptures of the latter, as they silently, but not tearlessly, surveyed this collected result of their labor of love. We sang, we prayed, we rejoiced. Solemn addresses were delivered by my colleague, Mr. Dale, and myself, and some most impressive facts were related by Mr. Manton, one of the deacons of the church under the pastorate of the Rev. A. Vaughan, and the superintendent of the Sunday school in Ebenezer Chapel. It was a season of unusual solemnity, and yet there was joyousness. It was not a merrymaking, yet every thing was sacredly festive. We ministers made them happy, but we also endeavored to make them holy.

"At an early stage of the evening, the following report was read:—

#### "REPORT OF THE CARR'S LANE BIBLE CLASS.

"Established January 10, 1836.

"In nineteen years some changes have taken place in the construction of the Bible Class. For sixteen it was instructed in two divisions each Sabbath, but in June 1852, it was found necessary to unite them under two teachers, who since have attended alternate Sabbaths.

"In January 1854 it was determined, with the approval of the Rev. J. A. James, to alter in some degree the character of the class. It had previously depended for its supply principally upon those honorably dismissed from the Sunday school; but of late years, as the last two dismissions proved, the young people had continued in the school till their age, and the prospect of forming other connections, prevented their attachment to a new class and a new teacher. It was, therefore, resolved, that the Bible Class should be formed and supplied by young people in retail shops, many of whom are strangers in Birmingham, and are connected with our congregation. The class is also open to any young people who desire religious instruction, not excluding those from the school who wish to enter it.

"It is satisfactory to be able to state that those married, with very few exceptions, are in comfortable domestic circumstances,—this applies, as far as can