

way, however. When one of them has stated his experience in a few meetings it would be wise in him to retire and cultivate fresh knowledge, and a spirit of humility before God. But there are some of these young converts who may be differently employed. If God has given them a talent, it is right that it should be employed. True, the majority have not that talent for speaking, and these should not be employed farther than in relating simply their own experience a few times. It is injurious to them to be living upon past experience—they should be gathering a fresh experience.

“In connection with this work, when persons from a distance take a part in it, they should shew all respect to order and the constituted ordinary means of grace. This was Nettleton’s practice. He honoured the ministry in his evangelistic labours; and if a similar course is followed by others, ministers in the different localities, as was the case with us at Dumfries, will be able cordially to unite with evangelists, and will find their hands strengthened by their labours. The building up of the Church must be the work of the settled ministers.

“I have been greatly delighted and refreshed by my intercourse, in this matter, with fathers and brethren throughout the country; for everywhere are they devoting themselves with life and earnestness to their work, and the Master is honouring them in gathering many souls to Christ by their means. There is everywhere a door wide open for the preaching of the gospel. How long will it be so? I do not know the meaning of this great outpouring of the Spirit of God with which we are favoured. I do not know what it portends: whether the universal and immediate dominion of the Lord Jesus Christ upon earth, or whether it portends days of struggle and of trial for the Church. I do not know what it portends; but that it is our present duty to build up the Church of Christ, to gather in the multitudes who are ready waiting to come in, I do believe. Let us continue in faith, prayer, and labour, and it is impossible to say what these may not accomplish.”

SISTERS IN CHRIST.

Not very long ago a valued friend requested me to visit a young woman, lodging in an alley in Holborn, who was dying of the most painful of all diseases.

The small room was delicately clean and neat: and on the little table stood a jar, adorned with a few country flowers—the offering of an early friend. By the bedside stood a pale young woman, with a gentle and sympathizing countenance, smoothing the sufferer’s pillow. It was scarcely whiter than her face; the mouth and chin of which were covered by a cambric handkerchief, to veil the ravages which her terrible disease had made.

After a few inquiries of the nurse, I spoke a little to the sufferer; and then, remembering that it must seem so easy for one in comparative health to speak to her of the goodness of God; but how much harder it must be for her to believe it,—lying there, hour after hour, in anguish, which suffered her scarcely to sleep by night or by day, increasing during the thirteen months past, and leaving no hope of alleviation in the future but by death,—I thought it best to tell her all that was passing in my mind. And then I added, “If you can believe that the blessed Saviour, who, when He was on earth, healed all manner of disease with a touch or a word, and who has the same healing power now, yet withholds it from you—does so from some infinitely wise and loving reason; it would do me good to know it. If it be so, will you just lift up your finger in assent?”

She raised her pale, transparent hand, and waved it over her head, with an expression in her sunken eyes which almost glorified her face.

I could not help saying to her, when I could command my voice enough to speak, “I believe that one wave of your hand gives more honour to your Saviour in the sight of all the angels of heaven than whole years of any little services which He might permit me to render Him, in comparative health and ease; because your faith is so much more severely tried.” It seemed a new and delight-