

DR. PARKER'S FREE-AND-EASY MEETINGS FOR WORKING-MEN.—Much has been said about Dr. Parker's meetings in one of the rooms of City Temple, London. They were held at noon, without any formalities; and he allowed the men to bring their lunches, or smoke their pipes. A few did the former; but the latter was merely seen—it could scarcely be said to be practised. The *Christian World* thus reports one of the meetings:—

One or two men, who advised their fellows to trust more to Christ, was scornfully interrupted. Dr. Parker said he owed all he was and all he had to the Nazarene, and therefore he would not have Him insulted in his presence. There was a kind of Christianity that might be called an ecclesiastical, metaphysical, or ritualistic Christianity—that they were perfectly at liberty, like himself, to abhor and detest, but they must not confound things that differ. If it was with his dying breath, he would say to them that the man who spoke a word against the Nazarene was unworthy to be called a man. This noble protest was received with ringing cheers. Next week the interesting series of meetings will for the present conclude. They have been successful beyond all hopes. It will be the greatest of pities if some plan cannot be devised for continuing them *en permanence*. It is scarcely to be expected that so busy a man as Dr. Parker can continually endure so heavy a strain in addition to his other labours.

ONE is sometimes led to predict. About thirty years ago we read in Livingstone's first journals about his meeting a man near the sources of the Zambesi, who, when he told him of God and Christ, replied, that he "had often wondered if there were no Being greater than himself, who made him, and loved him?" The Holy Spirit had just as evidently sent that man to Livingstone, as He sent an angel to tell Cornelius where to find Peter! And we have often asserted our conviction that that seed would yet be found growing in those wilds! And now the Rev. F. S. Arnot, the young Scotch missionary, who, after seven years' exploration and search for a healthy site for Missions, has settled down in the "Barotse Valley," in that very region, writes that he has found two men who repeated to him passages of the Bible, in their own language, they had learned of Livingstone thirty years ago. The reasonable presumption is, that they have been repeating them and discussing them, all these years, in the hearing of everyone who was interested enough to listen to them.

Love is the gift of self. To love is to place at the disposal of others for their alleviation, their instruction, their happiness, and their sanctification all that God has lent us.

Editorial Articles.

PUBLIC PRAYER.

Said a man to us once: "If I come into your church, I suppose you will expect me to take part in the prayer meeting?" We said, *yes*; and encouraged him in that duty. And he always prayed when he was *asked*, but not otherwise.

He was a middle-aged man, and was too long in beginning to learn to pray. In one of the Toronto churches, we once heard a man requested by name to pray; and he knelt down, and with a beautiful solemnity repeated the Lord's prayer. We thought it was good. The man had probably never been thus asked before; and was afraid of trusting himself to speak words of his own. A brother in the ministry once told us he was trying to improve his prayer meetings; and would ask one member to pray for *one particular thing*, and leave out, for the time, everything else; and then another, to pray for another specific thing; and so on. What success he had at last, we did not learn. Many of our brethren can remember how pleased and thankful they were, when some one told them, "I have been so helped and benefited by your pulpit prayers!"

A few suggestions. As to the home: you may not find the experiences and needs of one day, very different from any other day; but you will find something in every one of your family *Scripture readings* that will suggest thoughts and petitions in your prayer! Your vocabulary, your range of expression and thought, will greatly enlarge by such a practice. And besides, the habit you get into, of watching your reading for appropriate expressions and thoughts *will follow you to church*; and you will derive this same benefit from the minister's reading, that you do from your own. And then, if suddenly called on to lead in prayer, you will be able to do so "for edification."

A contemporary says:—

"If your language is poor and your ideas few, no matter. Do the best you can and God will help you. The face of man often bringeth a snare. Think only of your heavenly Father, whose pitying eye is upon you. Never desire to pray long. Short prayers, and more of them, are the life of a