

### A Model Prayer-Meeting.

Lately the writer had an opportunity of attending a prayer-meeting in the 23rd Street Presbyterian Church, New York, the plan of which might be copied with great advantage by our congregations generally.

At the close of the evening public service, a goodly number adjourned into the school room of the Church, through the doors on each side of the pulpit, and an elderly gentleman took charge of the meeting, who, I was informed, had been converted only a few months. There were six short prayers and three short addresses, interspersed with singing—one or two verses some seven times—the whole occupying about 36 minutes. The prayers and addresses occupied only about **THREE MINUTES EACH**. They generally related to some one topic—a short address giving an account of one or more cases of conversion—in answer to prayer offered on their behalf. A request for prayer for some one, briefly stating the merits of the case, or seeking to stir up all to greater devotedness by recalling their obligations, and the goodness of God to them in the past. There was a warmth and variety and freshness about the meeting, which quickened all hearts, and made them feel it is good for us to be here. How much better than the long prayers, which we often hear, ranging over the whole history of man, and perhaps telling God a great deal about the doctrines of the Bible, but not about our own weakness and wants, and humbly and earnestly presenting our desires for the blessings now specially needed by us.

I here append a short American tractate, whose aim is to stir up the people to attend the prayer-meeting called "The Hour of Prayer"

#### THE HOUR OF PRAYER.

##### *A Pastor's Invitation.*

"Midway between the Sabbaths the Church has appointed an hour for social prayer and praise.

"Your Pastor is exceedingly desirous that you should be a habitual attendant upon this meeting, for the following, among other reasons:

"1. Your presence there will greatly encourage and aid your Pastor.

"The Pulpit needs to be strongly re-

inforced by the united prayers of the whole Church.

"Brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified."

"2. The Prayer Meeting is the place of power in the Church.

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brethren."

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."

"3. The Church Prayer Meeting is the place for the development and expression of Christian sympathy.

"Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day approaching."

"4. At the Prayer Meeting you are likely to meet Jesus.

"You, yourself, need the sustenance and stimulant that a habitual attendance at the prayer-meeting is likely to afford you.

"We would see Jesus." "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?"

5. The Prayer Meeting will help you amid the cares, anxieties, business and temptations of the week.

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

6. Our Lord himself needs just such manifested sympathy as is afforded by a general attendance at the Prayer Meeting.

"What! could ye not watch with me one hour!"

Then, come to the prayer-meeting. For your Pastor's sake; For the Church's sake; For your own sake; for Christ's sake.

COME!—Habitually, cheerfully, humbly, prayerfully, asking, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" and God will hear and bless.

"Come thou with us and we will do thee good, for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel."

If at any time providentially hindered from attending the Prayer Meeting, do