

Religious Intelligence.

STREET PREACHING.

We are glad to see the increased attention given to this old-fashioned Methodist usage. Every period of spiritual revival has been also a period of revived street preaching. It was so in the days of the great street preacher, the Founder of Christianity; so in the days of the apostles, so in the days of the Wycliffites and Lollards and preaching friars in England, and in the days of the gentle St. Francis and his followers in Umbria. Especially was it so in the days of the Wesleyan and other subsequent revivals in England. The English Methodist missionaries, led by such men as Charles Garrett, Hugh Price Hughes, T. Bowman Stephenson, Wiseman and Young, have won the people to the churches by their winsome highway ministry. The Salvation Army has set us an example in street preaching and the ministry of women we have been too slow to follow.

In connection with the recent Conferences there have been some notable street services. At the great Manitoba Conference some of the zealous young Englishmen who have inherited the street preaching traditions, went into the ring with the Salvationists and had a rousing open-air service. At the Toronto Conference some of the ministers took splendid part in a street corner service near Massey Hall, and preached and sang the Gospel to listening hundreds.

The same night the young people of Elm Street Church, accompanied by their deaconess, had an open-air service a few rods north, and at the same hour the Salvation Army friends a few rods south. It was something new to see three such services so near together at the same time. At another service the people stood patiently in the rain, not a heavy, but a steady rain, for an hour, listening with evident hunger for the Bread of Life. At a more recent service several members of the Metropolitan Church, from a lad of fourteen to a venerable saint of over eighty, including our devoted deaconess and other younger and older persons, maintained for an hour and a half an animated meeting. Three or four persons held up their hands for prayer, two of whom followed two of the missionaries to

their home for further conversation and instruction.

For some weeks a number of the Metropolitan young people have met for a song service in Rosedale at seven o'clock in the morning, and at another in the church parlors after the evening preaching. They have arranged to adjourn the latter to the open air, and sing the Gospel in the street to the passers-by.

One can reach multitudes in this way we can reach in no other way. It gives an opportunity for personal work and conversation with the strangers in our city, many of whom are glad to hear the old songs of their fatherland and to listen to the word of welcome and of cheer. Some of these recount with pleasure the effort made for the P.S.A., the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Association, which gathers men in by the thousand in the English cities for the study of the Word of God.

One good brother gave valuable help, who had been for seven years a street preacher in San Francisco. He had often preached in front of the Call Building, whose ruined tower is in every picture of the earthquake shaken city. Here he was mobbed by the sons of Belial, who resented his faithful mission, but he says, "I learned from the tactics of the Salvation Army not to let the mob get me under their feet or else I'd be done for, but to climb up on their shoulders." And by his faithfulness and zeal he conquered the mob, or rather the Lord did it for him.

In Canada there is no such good luck as encountering a little wholesome opposition or persecution, rather the woe of those of whom all men speak well. But with the humble effort of these young people to speak a word for the Master comes a great and abounding joy. At first it requires a little effort to stand at the street corner and address the passing crowd, but that soon wears off. It is like the pause before the plunge into a sea-bath, it causes a slight shock at first, but is followed by an invigorating rejuvenescence.

We would like to see at all our Conferences such open-air services organized. It would emphasize the spiritual side of the