

To such I have sometimes replied with the following incident :

In the fall of 1896, a convention of the Sunday-school workers of D— county was held at B— for the purpose of organizing that county as an auxiliary of the State Association. Mr. Hugh Cork, then international field worker, attended the meeting, and among other things presented the Home Department. A Congregational pastor from a neighboring village arose, following Mr. Cork's remarks, and said he believed that the idea was a good one, and he was going to give it a trial.

On returning home, he filled his pockets with supplies, and started out. In all, he made ninety-nine calls, and enrolled ninety-seven members. One of the two who refused afterwards repented, and this is the story:

On his initial visit, the pastor was met by the wife of the man whom he had called to see—a farmer, by the way, living a mile and a half from town. She informed her pastor that her husband was plowing "On the far side of that 40," and suggested that the visit had better be deferred to another day, giving as the reason that her husband was out of humor, and would probably abuse the caller, as he did not take much interest in religion.

Mr. G— said he did not know when he was abused, so that would make no difference, and he crossed the ground to where the farmer was at work. Having been a farmer himself, the pastor was able to talk "farm sense" with the man until he seemed to be feeling fairly good-natured, and then he explained the object of his visit.

But as soon as the pastor spoke of the Bible and the Sunday-school, the man turned upon him and cursed God, the Church, the pastor, and his Bible until the air was blue and sulphurous. After a little more one-sided conversation about miscellaneous topics, the pastor took his departure. Passing the house, he stopped and exchanged a few cheering remarks with the wife, saying, as he left, "I will leave this Quarterly on the table for your husband."

Some six weeks afterwards the wife

trudged into town to church, one Sunday morning, with a baby in her arms and two little ones toddling by her side, and, after church, reported as follows to the pastor :

"Two or three nights after you left, John was sitting by the table, when he saw the Quarterly. He picked it up, and turned it over in a general inspection, and then settled back and read it for the rest of the evening. Then he asked where it came from, and I said you left it for him. He said nothing in reply, but two or three evenings every week since then he has studied it."

At the close of the quarter, the pastor called again, and, the farmer being away, left another Quarterly for him. A few Sundays afterward, shortly after the service had begun, in walked the farmer with his whole family, to the astonishment of the entire congregation, none of whom had ever seen him inside of a church before.

About this time the man's neighbors began to talk about him thus: "What's the matter with John —? I never used to pass his place but what he was abusing his wife or his children or his stock, but I haven't heard him swear for a month. What is the matter with him? Is he sick?" And another would say (and truly, too): "I do not know, but he has always been considered the meanest man in this part of the country."

Well, the first time he came to church was not the last time. He kept coming with increasing frequency, joined the main department of the Sunday-school, hitched up all his teams and brought the Ladies' Aid Society out to his farm for a meeting, and the last word which I had from the pastor was, "I expect to take him into the Church next Sunday."

People say "Wonderful!" Of course, it is wonderful. But if we believe the declaration of Isaiah 55: 10, 11, we have good grounds for expecting just such wonderful things as that to be occurring all the time in connection with the Home Department. The all-conquering power of the truth is the motive force which we avail ourselves of when we inaugurate this work.