

help to them. I was going to ask, How are our prayer meetings to be conducted so as to get men there? As a matter of fact we will find three women to one man every night. How are men to be got there? They have souls to be saved; important interests are committed to them. I think the prayer meeting would be found one of the great means by which they could be better fitted for life. Many meetings are now conducted (I am speaking as a layman) with a sort of little sermon. It only differs in that it is a little shorter sermon than on the Sabbath. My own idea is that it would be better to have less sermonizing on prayer meeting night and more of the Word of God, because it is that word which our Saviour himself pointed out as to be the means of our salvation. "Sanctify them by Thy truth, Thy Word is truth," is His prayer to the Father. We should endeavor to get more of the word of truth in our hearts, and I think some of the suggestions made by Mr. Moody will enable us to get down to that truth and get more of it in our hearts.

MAJOR WHITTLE.—There is a verse, 1st Corinthians, xiv., 26., which says: "How is it then brethren? When ye come together every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation." Every Christian should make his contribution to the meeting. If we look up to Christ we will receive a contribution, and we have a blessing.

A prayer meeting followed.

MR. MOODY spoke on the text "Bring them unto Me," Mark, ix., 19. He said. We pray for our children. When Christ came from the Mount of Transfiguration He saw a great multitude about His disciples, and He questioned them as to the cause, and one of the crowd said he had brought his son who was possessed of an evil spirit that he might be healed. The disciples had tried to heal him and had failed. The man brought his son direct to Christ. He could not have done a better thing. He rebuked the disciples for their want of faith. He said, "Bring him unto Me," and at once He answered the prayer of the father and the evil spirit was driven out of the boy. That incident took place, and I believe it has been put on record to encourage us to bring our children to Christ. There are parents who have children who give them much trouble. I believe that we have to-day people possessed of evil spirits as much as in the days of Christ, and He has as much power to cast out devils as He ever had. We have this father as an example that He will hear us, and answer our petition. That answer is going to be according to our faith. Your son may be far away, away where you cannot reach him, but Christ knows where he is, and He can save him. The one you want to have Christ reach may not care to be saved. You know the palsied man was brought to Christ. There is nothing to show that the man had faith. Yet Christ forgave him; and told him to take up his bed and walk, and the man leaped up, whole from that hour, rolled up his old bed, slung it across his shoulder and went his way. If the father have faith the son or daughter can be saved. When the woman came to Elisha in her trouble her son was already dead. Elisha told his servant to take his staff and lay it upon the body. But the woman sung to him. And it was well she did, for the staff failed and the servant failed, but the master succeeded. To let us not be satisfied with the staff or with the servant's efforts, but let us seek the Master himself. Take the position of the Syro-Phœnician woman. "Lord help me." "What is it?" "My child." Plead before God for your children, and he is able to save them every one. God has not given us our natural affections and the yearning for our children without being willing to

satisfy our longings. There may be a father or mother here who is prayerless. May God teach you to pray for yourselves and children. I remember some years ago a man living in the Mississippi valley. He had accumulated great wealth, had given all his faculties to gain it, and had prospered so far as worldly goods went. One day his son, his eldest born, was brought in, dying from the result of an accident. When the father found his boy could not live he wanted the boy to be roused by the doctors, for he said, "I don't want my boy to die without knowing me." They brought him to, and the father told him he was dying. The boy said, "Father, wont you pray for my soul. You never taught me to pray for myself." The father began to weep, and said he could not pray. The boy passed away, and the father has told me that he would give all his wealth if he could bring him back, that he might fulfil his dying request and pray for him. May God enable you to call your family around the family altar and pray. Better do that for them than establish them in business and leave them great fortunes. I never forget an incident that Mr. Wells related in Chicago. An elder in the same church in New York had a little boy lying at the point of death. His wife asked him to tell the child that death was near, and he did so. The little fellow said, "I will be with Jesus, father, and when I get to heaven I will tell Him you taught me about Him and taught me to pray." God has given me three children, and I would rather they should take such a testimony to heaven of me, should I survive them, than have all the wealth of the world roll at my feet. If I should die before them, I would rather have them drop a tear over my grave and say I had shown them the way to the Saviour than praise me for anything that I had done for their temporal welfare. Many have sent in written requests for prayers, but let us pray with all those who ask us to day to pray with them. All those who have children to be prayed for let them take their stand before God and we will join them.

Prayers were offered, and the meeting closed.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

The Convention re-assembled at 3 p. m.

THE QUESTION DRAWER.

MR. MOODY opened the question drawer. The first question, he said, is "Is it best in Union Meetings to change the leader at every meeting?"

If it is a union meeting for conference it is well to change the leader, but if it is a gospel meeting it is a great mistake to change the leader every day, because the people never get beyond comparing the speakers, never get from the messenger to the message. Some years ago in Chicago we held special meetings for thirty days. Every day twelve or fifteen hundred people attended, and every day a different minister preached; one of the thirty leading ministers of the city. I believe we made one convert, so we were paid for our work. But if we had had only one minister I believe we should have had a great many more. The people were all the time comparing the ministers.

The next question is, "How can we get the non-church goers into church?"

I think there has got to be a revolution in many of our churches. I think that on the Sabbath evening all the pews should be free. Then half an hour should be given to a praise service. Have some simple hymns, and let all the people sing for half an hour. Then, (having burned