

We believe there is no true Evangelizing work amongst us but has felt an impulse to go forward from what was called the "Moody and Sankey movement." It has shown us, amid all the activities of evil agents, and all that may be depressing in the signs of the times that, meanwhile, there are fields of souls ripe unto the harvest, and that we may each in our measure help more earnestly than ever to sickle the grain and gather in the sheaves.

Our own community of Bible-women and Bible-nurses have evidently been strengthened for their work to come by the spiritual privileges of the year gone by. We left them free to attend Mr Moody's Meetings, as far as they could in their own localities during the spring months, and we hear that numbers of them were found practically useful in the Enquiry-rooms. We had some fears that the daily visitation from house-to-house, which is their usual duty, might be hindered in consequence, but it does not seem to have been so. They have been really quickened in diligence, and have seen how important it is to follow up newly-awakened souls, and lead them to possess and feed upon the Word of God, also to draw them into fresh circles of Christian fellowship and teaching on the Lord's day. And we have good reason to believe that the desire to receive the Bible, as the very voice of God, to search it, and to understand it, is really increasing in our Mothers' classes. The poor women wish to be enabled to answer with the authority of "It is written," the fearful doubts and disbeliefs which are so zealously infused into the minds of working men (their husbands) by the false teachers of this day.

We hope to induce our Lady Superintendents more and more to let the Bible *speak for itself* to such seekers, in selected and connected series of texts on practical subjects, after the method employed by Mr. Moody in his popular Bible readings.

A visiting friend writes us:—

"Mrs. M—— is a very good, earnest worker. Her mothers seem very thankful for her visits, and I hear them say, 'Come round soon again, will you, and speak to *him*; he was so much better after you saw him' (referring to an erring husband, who attends infidel meetings). Before we set off in the morning the Bible-woman had asked me to join her in prayer for the soul of this man, saying of herself, 'I am only a poor simple woman. I have no words of my own. But when I think of the wondrous love of Christ, I feel I can go any where, and He will speak for me.' She said she afterwards found the man more attentive and less argumentative than he had ever been before, adding, 'How can he long withstand the Word of God when he begins to listen?' I feel sure, from what I have heard of the mothers of this meeting, that God has indeed owned and blessed the labours, of both the Lady and Bible-woman.

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"At another meeting I attended, only eight women were present, all Jewesses, and listened with earnest attention to the Word, and joined most heartily in the singing. One, a widow, after the meeting, testified to the loving, care of God to her and her children, and the comfort His Word was to her."

In a recent survey of our humble co-workers, the Bible-women, after nineteen years we find that only about thirty-four remain of those who were on our lists, even in 1860—thirty-four out of about 300. Now regularly paid agents, not to speak of twenty-three besides who are pensioned—and we can thus account for nearly sixty of the old list; but the rest are younger women, and have not so long a history.

We cannot be too thankful that He who watches over the work of His own Word, and over all the companies of those who publish it, has educated for us, in His own way, so many of these earnest messengers, often in the school of deep affliction. The trouble of a hard life, the loss of husband or of children has often first prepared them to receive with meekness the engrafted Word into their own hearts, and then faithfully to offer themselves for this service—the service of God's Word—in which there is room for all manner of consecrated lives and purses, and hands and hearts. "Hither to the Lord hath helped us."