

next two months, and lots of my members who were afraid to stop with me for a meal before this, were now ready, and felt that I was equal to the task. They are still in ignorance as to the facts in the case.

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Rejuvenating a Prayer Meeting.

OUR prayer meeting lagged. Sel-don did any one participate in the discussion of the topic; although the pastor at the close of his remarks always invited volunteer remarks, invitations were without avail.

A devotional committee was appointed, who brought subjects and arranged a programme for two months ahead. This was placed on the bulletin board, and subjects announced from week to week. Then as the subjects came up in turn for discussion, that member of the committee who had suggested the subject for that particular evening secured two or three or half a dozen persons to participate in the discussion. Thus there is always a variety of speakers promised for each evening, while not excluding any.

The pastor conducts the opening exercises, and tells the people to go ahead, making no remarks himself until all who are pledged and all who volunteer have spoken. Then he adds what seems needful. The plan has worked admirably, and the people say to the pastor, "We feel it is our meeting rather than yours."

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Changing a Funeral Custom.

IT was the custom in my charge to hold funeral services in the church. At these services all the male relatives, as well as the pall-bearers, kept on their hats. This I regarded as unscriptural, as well as irreverent in the house of God, and

that no custom could justify a wrong. Therefore I took the following method of reform. Just before the formalities of taking the body from the house of mourning all the relatives were collected, and I spoke to them, reading portions of 1 Cor. xi, and said: "Of all times and places, our proposed assembly in the house of God is one of the most solemn, and it is most desirable that God would be with us to hear our prayers. Let us therefore appear in His house in the most becoming, respectful and reverent manner, and the men having their heads uncovered." At the first service the men all went into the church as usual. In a few moments one of them remembered the request, and in less than two minutes all the hats had been quietly removed. Some persons, not of my congregation, criticised my course, saying I was striking at customs sanctioned by good men who were held in high esteem by the people. I replied that I thought I was right, and that my predecessors felt very much as I did. In less than six months two other congregations of the place were as strict to observe the propriety of the house of God as my own, without any mention by the pastor. Yet these congregations are the most conservative with regard to forms and methods in and about their church services; while one other congregation professing to be radical and modern has paid no attention to my innovation.

I never made a public allusion to the subject. I proceeded in a strict regard for the Scripture and propriety in divine worship.

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[It would be interesting to know where the odd custom referred to originated, or what reason is given for it. Can any one inform us?—Eds.]