

but persons who held erroneous doctrines apart altogether from it, finding men alive on the subject of religion, intruded themselves into places where persons impressed, yet not established in the truth, were to be found, and tried to instil into their minds their pernicious heresies. There has been a great deal of Morisonianism propagated. Questions about election and the extent of the atonement have been raised, and semi-Pelagian views have been propagated. The work has thus been hindered in many places where it gave great promise of spreading wide and striking deep its root. If I might make a suggestion in regard to such cases, it would be, to preach fully and plainly the great and precious truths of God's sovereign grace in Christ—to avoid arguing with those people in the mean time, whenever circumstances will admit of it—and thus prevent the attention of the people being taken up with theological discussions instead of being occupied with prayer and the salvation of their own souls and those of their neighbours. I believe the devil does as much mischief by keeping men arguing about religion, as by introducing erroneous doctrines into their minds. He is perfectly willing men in a time like this should be employed about religion if they do not become religious themselves.

"In connection with this, I think it is worth while considering what should be done in reference to the large meetings for inquiry. It is very difficult often to get proper persons to converse with all those that remain, and persons who are ignorant, or presumptuous, or who hold erroneous opinions, sometimes take part in this duty. But I believe if a band of intelligent Christian people were organized when required, to take it into their own hands, and exclude improper persons, that would be of great importance.

"Then there has been, of course, opposition from the world. Here a man hinders his wife, here a brother his sister, or masters and mistresses their servants, from going to religious meetings. Some of these persecuted ones have nobly resisted, resolving to part with everything rather than Christ. With regard to young converts, they require and ought to receive our special attention. Some of them are well instructed. Numbers of persons among us are intellectually acquainted with religion who are not really believers, and when these by the work of the Spirit, become believers, they get the benefit of that intellectual knowledge they had before. This is the reason why parents and teachers should communicate religious instruction as far as they possibly can. This is, on their part, the filling the water-pots with water; it is for the Spirit of the Lord to change the water into wine. Many of the instructed, and those uninstructed too, shew a great desire for scriptural teaching, and th.s, I am delighted to find that our ministers are zealously giving. They have, without exception, Bible classes; and the advantages of Sabbath school instruction are clearly seen in the converts.

"I do not venture to lay down any rules in regard to this great movement. I remember a most intelligent Irish Presbyterian minister saying, that when the north of Ireland was visited, he formed his plans in anticipation of the wished-for revival in his own place. But when it came these were all swept away, and he was just forced to do the Lord's work in the Lord's way. I believe the only rule lies in the two great commandments—"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart," and "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." God will carry us through by this, and nothing else. At the same time, there is much room for Christian wisdom and prudence. It is evident that the agency of man can do something both to mar and to promote the work. Much may be done by any loving-hearted man, blessed with a fair share of moral courage, if he throw himself into the work. I can never forget the weighty words uttered on this subject by a member of this house last year—Superintendence, Suggestion, and Substitution. If we take these for our guide and go into the work in dependence upon the Spirit of God, he will enable us to glorify him and to benefit the souls of men.

"With regard to young converts, when they go and state quietly to their fellow-men what the Lord hath done for them, I believe that it is a legitimate employment for them. I do not think it a good thing for them to be long employed in this