

fore, I object to putting any stumbling-blocks in any such person's way."

"Doctor, I want to say that it seems to me that now is just the time to get up a warmer feelin' in the church. Now, if you will just announce next Sunday that there is goin' to be a series of special meetin's to awaken religious interest in this town, I think you will do a good deal more good among them that needs it than by worryin' members of your own congregation."

"I already had determined on a special effort at an early date," said the pastor. "And still more; after two or three conversations with the man whom you were so desirous that I should call upon, I have determined to invite him to assist me in the conduct of the meeting."

"What?" exclaimed the deacon; "bring in that thief and drunkard and ignorant fellow, that is only just out of jail, to teach the way of life to people that needs to know it? Why, Dr. Guide, you must be losin' your mind?"

"The meetings will be held, deacon, and Mr. Kimper will be asked to assist. In fact, I already have asked him. I trust that his presence will not cause us to lose such valuable assistance as you yourself may be able to give?"

"Well, I never!" exclaimed the deacon, "I never did—it beats all. Why, if there was another church of our denomination in this town, I believe I'd take my letters and go to it—I really would."

Nevertheless, the special meetings were immediately announced, and they began directly afterward; and, according to the pastor's announcement, the ex-convict was asked to assist. His assistance did not seem to amount to much to those who came through curiosity to listen. But after he had made a speech, which, at the suggestion of Dr. Guide, had been carefully prepared, but which was merely a rehearsal of what he already had said to numerous individual questioners, there was impressive silence in the lecture-room in which the meetings were being conducted.

"My friends," said the pastor, rising soon afterward, "when our Lord was on earth, He once raised His eyes to heaven and said: 'I thank Thee, Father, that Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them unto babes.' I confess to you that I never was able to understand the full meaning of this expression, but as I have become more and more acquainted with our friend who has just spoken to you, and have learned how fully his faith is grounded, and how entirely his life has been changed by what seems to us as the mere beginnings of religious belief, I am constrained to feel that I have yet a great deal to learn about my own profession and my own duty as a minister. What has just been said to you contains the essence of everything which I have preached from my pulpit in twenty years. I wish it were in my power to re-state it all as clearly as you have heard it this evening, but I confess it is not. I fear to add anything to what you have already heard, for I do not see how in any way I could make this important subject any more clear to your com-