

and effectually deliver the prey from the hand of the strong one; frequently have we had to know while met together that "He who hath no rule over his own spirit, is like a city broken down and without walls."—So also of a church not subject in all things, to the spirit of Christ: there is neither safety nor prosperity there, its members soon forsake, and its foes possess it altogether.

You will rejoice with us to know, dear Brethren; that on many of our circuits we have had a steady advance in the number of the hearers of the word preached, the members of the church, the pecuniary contributions, and we fondly hope in the piety of our Ministers and members. We have reason to know that protracted meetings when properly conducted, are usually attended with very happy results: several sound and striking conversions to God have taken place in such meetings since our last Conference, and we fondly hope that many more such things may be realized this present year. We cannot, however, but state to you, that great results never can be realized unless we carry into the means used, great faith in God, great love for the souls of our fellow men, and great readiness to take up the cross, deny ourselves, and fully to go with Jesus, wherever he may lead; nor should we consider our work over when the protracted effort is over, it is then only begun: when the fallow ground has been broken up, we have now to cast in with great care the good seed, when it has been cast in we have to watch its safety, watering it with anxious care, often with prayers and tears, that it may take root and grow; while in these cases where conversion has taken place, it is our duty to watch over their religious progress, giving their character such a direction in its early stages of formation, as shall ultimately conduce to the greatest amount of happiness, and of usefulness. Never forget how much depends on first impressions, and first habits: the character then *well* formed, is more than half perfected; while carelessness, or mistakes in the outset, deform and hinder, and vex us all the days of