

rule over them; for they watch for their souls, as they that must give account." But if obedience is to depend upon a mere *whim* of their own,—for certainly an objection to attendance on class-meetings deserves no better term, as no serious and intelligent christian can object to meet with his fellow christians to converse and pray together on matters of the richest interest to every spiritually minded professor—then the Apostolic precept is of no avail.

Have you ever pondered the allusions to meetings of this nature by the prophet Malachi, and the impressive reference to them by Jehovah himself?—I will read it for your consideration:—“*Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; (as we do in class-meetings) and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name, And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.*” Is there not here an allusion to meetings remarkably similar to our class-meetings? unquestionably there is; and because our church wisely appoints them, we must, according to your theory, leave it perfectly optional as to whether our members shall attend them or not,—which just amounts to this, that their maintenance shall rest upon a mere contingency; and if the members so please an invaluable means of grace may be continued, but otherwise, they shall be dropped. Is it not exceedingly probable that this very latitude,