

can brethren, who would, I am convinced, regard these churches sprung of Pilgrim stock as beloved for their fathers' sakes. Suppose this change made, then it might be found best to have the grants made to the churches conditional on their pastors being available, at the discretion of our Executive Committee, for itinerant evangelistic work for so long a period each year. * * * Greater liberality on the part of the churches in the support of the Gospel would very materially improve our position. Water cannot rise higher than its level. Churches cannot expect higher talent and culture than they are ready to pay for. * * *

"Furthermore, there is a missionary link which if supplied would go far to insure strength and success. I refer to the press. A weekly newspaper is a necessity. If a weekly paper, under Congregational control, imbued with a Congregational spirit, and indigenous to the soil, made a weekly visit to our homes gradually and steadily, we should find the people formed for ourselves and not for others.

"Could we lay hands on some of our lay brethren whose hearts and lives are consecrated to giving as the Lord hath prospered, and send them forth to the churches, saying, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his path straight, and should all our people be baptized of them into this spirit, so that all the tithes would be brought into the storehouse, then would there be meat in the house of the Lord.

"Finally, if we would better our position and fulfil our mission we must consecrate ourselves and our service anew to God. One great need is the baptism of the Holy Ghost and of fire to penetrate and energize the churches.

"The events of the present year in Providence and Grace in their bearing upon the churches are not without their bright side. In spite of seeming adversity there has been growth and prosperity. The faint-hearted among us, and the unfriendly around us, may say your strength is poured out as water, but in the spirit of Wickliffe with a righteous indignation and child-like confidence in God we reply, we shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord.

"The tendencies of human thought, of political action, and ecclesiastical reform all lie in our direction. The truths and opinions we hold and propagate are not merely facts—they are FORCES, which tell upon the life of a people and silently, but most efficiently, are leavening the lump."

The above gives but a partial glimpse of the excellent address presented by the retiring Chairman, an address, first of all, pointing out the difficulties, and then suggesting the remedies by which these difficulties would be overcome.

The meetings were enlivened by singing, devotional exercises, and stirring addresses, without a jar to mar the harmony of the proceedings. And before the sessions were closed it was evident that the Holy Spirit was at work among the people in the neighbourhood.

DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

The Devotional exercises were a prominent feature of the meetings of this Session. The absence of several of the ministerial brethren, who had removed to other fields of labour, cast a shadow over the Union at its commencement; but as the brethren engaged heartily in the devotional exercises and the singing of hymns, a spirit of enthusiasm seemed to take hold on those present. Morning prayer meetings preceded the business meetings; and prayer and singing were interspersed through all the business exercises. Mr. Hugh P. Kerr, one of the delegates from St. John, enlivened the meetings by the singing at intervals of hymns from Mr. Sankey's "Songs and Solos."

On Saturday afternoon, Rev. Henry M. Parsons, of Boston, gave a Bible lesson on "The Good Shepherd," the subject of the lesson for the next Sunday of the International Series, at the conclusion of which Mr. Kerr sang, "The Ninety and Nine." On the following Monday afternoon, Mr. Parsons gave another Bible service, in presence of a large audience, on the subject of "Eternal Punishment."