

further for one great cause of weakness. An active attitude of soul is of the very essence of a good meeting. May we come into the presence of Christ as disciples,—in earnest devotedness and lowly teachableness,—and into the presence of one another as brethren,—in a living fellowship of love and sympathy. "One is your Teacher, and all ye are brethren."

THE ENDS FOR WHICH OUR MEETINGS EXIST.

Gathering in this active spirit of worship and fellowship, we gain vision to see beyond the meeting itself to the ends for which it exists; and find it easy to pass out of the self-sufficing worship, which may be indulged as a spiritual luxury till it enervates the soul, into the larger life of sympathy and service wherein we can be used by the Holy Spirit for His work. We realize that we have met with one another and with God, not as a matter of routine, nor for selfish enjoyment, but in order that the power of the Spirit may break forth to the awakening and conversion of souls, the refreshment and inspiration of disciples for the service of God, and the enrichment of their Christian character. These great purposes should be constantly ringing in our ears as we assemble. By our success in attaining them will our meetings be judged. It has been well said, "The churches that convert most men, and best use the men they have converted, realize religion in the most efficient way."*

A meeting cannot allow the Christ-like passion for seeking and saving the lost to be dulled without imperilling its own life. Nor can it fulfil its ministry unless the building-up of Christian character steadily progresses. It follows that there should be a continual drawing in of those not in membership with us; and we would urge Friends by personal invitation, distribution of notices, house to house visitation, and in other practical ways to use our meetings for worship as agencies for the spread of the Gospel in the districts round the meeting-houses. It follows also that in realizing the true objects of our meetings, the necessity will be felt for an outpouring of spiritual power to meet the needs of all who gather. We shall hunger after a living waiting upon God and a heart-searching ministry, which, as they are experienced, will crowd out all merely dead silence and unanointed utterance.

*"Catholicism: Roman and Anglican," by Principal Fairbairn, p. 43.

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