them personally, but were addressed entire-tian without corresponding zeal and activity.

that converts himself. only by our own exertions and strivings prayer-meetings. Under the influence of themselves at Church regularly every Sunthat our minds and hearts become inclined devotional feetings the heart is purified and day, it becomes the duty of those who have that our minds and hearts become inclined devotional leetings the heart is purified and day, it becomes the duty of those who have for the reception of grace from above. This softened, and the soil thus prepared for the higher views of the nature of the Christian view is illustrated by such texts as these: reception of the seed of the word. Hence profession, to endeavour to set before such "unto him that hath will be given;" "work the great importance to ministers of having formal pretenders an example of what the out your own salvation with fear and trem-such meetings in connexion with their Christian's life ought to be. The power of bling;" "ask and ye shall receive," &c. respective charges.

There is therefore the strongest analogy There is an objection sometimes brought led to more serious thoughts of the duty of between our seeking for the grace and favor against prayer meetings, which may be here the strongest as proved the vertical serious that they are to extend the vertical serious that of God, and our seeking for anything else, adverted to by way of caution. Such meet-fall they can to extend the usefulness of the We are so constituted that we can obtainings as are got up for prayer alone, it is said, unions with which they are severally connothing of any real value in this world with manifest more of ostentation than anything neeted.

not for their sakes alone, but were intended therefore to suppose that all that the Chris-attendance at such meetings is not to be for the benefit of believers in every age and tian requires is faith alone—that faith, considered as a work of supererogation, under every variety of circumstances. This namely, of which the Apos le James speaks, We can never pray enough. The exhoracommand then or rather this invitation, has -and that the possession of it will super-tion is "pray without ceasing." come down to our times,-it is addressed to sede every exertion on our part. We must dead in trespasses and sins, in the sight of us who profess to be Christ's followers now; labour and wrestle, to make our calling and God all our good works are but as "filthy and surely it is an invitation which, if we election sure; for although God is bountiful, rage,"-still we are not to withhold ourbelieve in the divine character of the speaker, neither in his moral or spiritual administra- selves from meeting together for devotional and of his power to make good his promises, tion, is there any reward offered to indolence, purposes, if our hearts tell us that the efferwe will not be slow in complying with. But The Christian life is a continued struggle—ing of our prayers will be acceptable to the too many, we fear, are accustomed to read a perpetual warfare,—and as no one expects Lord, their Bibles as if the commands, promises, to acquire wealth or learning without dili-Let us now consider a few of the principal threatenings and exhortations, contained genee and steady perseverance, so neither objects and advantages of small Fellowship therein, had not the slightest relation to can he hope to obtain eminence as a Christor Prayer Meetings.

1. In addition to mutual improvement, ly to some other individuals. Thus of those. In this view, therefore, the wise man and they tend to promote a spirit of sympathy who read the passage containing the above true Christian will lose no opportunity of and union among Christians of different promise, how many are there whose eyes strengthening the growth of grace within denominations. Every other bidy of men will wander carclessly over it, without con-him, but in his search after a holy life will holding similar views and professing the sidering for a moment how great is the en-joyfully lay hold of every opportunity of same great objects, seem to understand betcouragement held out to carnest, persevering holding communion with God in the com-ter than Christians the great advantages of
and importunate prayer! The passage pre-pany of the brethren. Sympathy increases Union. Why should not they who are
sents the Almighty in a light which it is all our enjoyments and lessens all our sor-called by the same name, worship the same
foelings of gratitude and veneration, bring-union of Christians for the purpose of prayer baptised with the same baptism, be also
line before we as it were the Great Jahovah calls fouth the beliest and left act feelings of full reservent or the advancement ing before us, as it were the Great Jehovah calls forth the holiest and loftiest feelings of fellow-workers together for the advancement looking down upon the earth, not as an in- their nature. In such intercourse all the of the same great objects,—the glory of different spectator of the concerns of men—'graces of the Christian character shine out God and the good of their fellow-men. The not as an unfeeling observer of the miseries, with increased lustre. Unity, brotherly points on which many denominations of the wants, the sighs and the sorrows of hurlove, faith, hope and charity are thereby Christians differ as compared with these man kind, but as one deeply interested in greatly strengthened and promoted. The upon which they agree, are often very triffall that concerns their happiness and welfare, people of God have always been accustomed ing and insignificant; and yet instead of a exclaiming: "ask and ye shall receive, seek to join together in the solemn exercises of desire for union and co operation, there too and ye shall find, knock and it shall be devotion; and it is truly a very significant often exist feelings altogether repugnant to opened unto you."

sign of the times when meetings for prayer the Christian character. Now, why is this?

Among a certain class, there is much are so little regarded as they are at present. Plainly, because Christians do not love each error and misconception as to the true nn-Indeed, there can be no better index of the other and pray for each other as they ought.

ture and efficacy of prayer, and hence, as low state of religion among us than the very Christianity, it has been truly said, is tur we have said, we often hear infilels denying general neglect of Fellowship Meetings for RELIGION OF THE HEART, and before Chrisits efficacy altogether, and attempting to prayer. Prayer is the very life-blood of times can be made to feel in common and act bring into disrepute this most holy exercise the Church; and prayerless times are dan- in concert, their hearts must be united in of our faith. Infidelity and superstitious gerous times. Every Christian, - every holy prayer for each other. This is the fanaticism are alike to be condemned. In minister of the gospel more especially, should firmest and strongest lond of union, without scripture, there are certain conditions laid do all he can to promote them. If each which all attempts at Evangelical alliance down which we must fulfil, before God will pastor were to exert himself in promoting must ever full. Fellowship meetings, therehear our prayers. Numerous passages of and extending such unions, what a vast deal fore, by uniting individuals by the holiest the Bible tell us that the grace and favour of new life would soon be infused into our and loftiest ties, contribute greatly to this of God will be administered in proportion lukewarm churches! A praying congrega- grand object, by laying the foundation of a to the exertions which we make in seeking tion is the best commentary upon a minister's more general and extensive union among the for them. The strivings of a man and the usefulness; and a praying people are the different denominations of Christians, workings of God's spirit within him are thus best prepared to hear faithful and carnest. 2. Such meetings exhibit a good example most closely and mysteriously connected preaching. It can never be too much in- to other Christians. At a time when so It is God that converts and yet it is man sisted on that the hearer should come to the great a number of professing Christians con-While, then, we house of God prepared. Preparation is as tent themselves with simply attending upon have the most implicit reliance upon the necessary for the hearer as for the preacher, the outward ceremonies of religion, without promises of God, we must work as if every-and nothing is better fitted for this purpose troubling themselves farther about the matter. thing depended upon ourselves; for it is than regular attendance at well-conducted thinking they do enough if they present

out labour and perseverance, -without ask-clsc, and tend to beget spiritual pride. 3. Prayer meetings also promote the ing, seeking, knocking. It is a great error! Members therefore should keep in view that growth in grace of the individual members