

"will continue. I trust that the reality of the work may be manifested in the new heart and new life of converts. But there will be disappointments. We cannot expect every apparent conversion to be abiding, or every verbal profession to be real and sincere. But still many are so, and we should hope all things, and leave the result in God's hands. If at this time, and amid these influences, your society can bring discharged prisoners out of the haunts and habits of crime and under the scope and urgent pressure of God's gracious offers of mercy, then blessing, the double blessing on him that gives and him that takes, will rest on your work and on yourselves. As there is scarcely any future on earth more miserable than that which awaits some of these poor prisoners if you, or such as you, do not interpose, so there is no future more blessed than what may be theirs if you can bring them to the gospel or take the gospel to them, and by prayerful efforts can induce them to accept the free and full salvation which God in His grace offers."

BITTER WATERS SWEETENED.

It is thus that the Editor of the *Family Treasury* writes of the fruits of the noon prayer-meeting on the party spirit that was very strong and violent in that city for some time back, in connection with the agitation for union:—

"The direct and immediate fruits of the noon prayer-meetings are very many and very precious. I shall give a specimen. The Presbytery of the Free Church was moved to appoint an extraordinary meeting—a conference, to which all their elders and deacons were invited, and private as regards the press, for the purpose of considering what the movement meant for us, and what special measures it might demand or suggest. The meeting was very large; its tone and spirit were very remarkable. For some years

"past, until May of last year, a distressing internal war has raged among us in regard to union. Although a flood had passed over the land, these differences could not have been more completely swept away. Men have been lifted up nearer to Christ, and they have to their surprise found themselves much closer to one another. The tone of the conference was tender, and humble, and devout, and brotherly in a degree far exceeding anything within the experience of the eldest of us. There was not a jarring note. The meeting threw light for me on the Lord's meaning when He said, 'Except ye receive the kingdom as a little child, ye shall not enter it.' When great warrior men are melted down by the Spirit into little babes, they seem to get into the kingdom more easily than when they march against each other with their armour on. The meeting was too short. The mind of the brethren seemed to be—

"I have been there, and still would go;
'Tis like a little heaven below."

"Accordingly we adjourned for a week, and held another conference of a similar kind to-day. At the close, my thoughts took this form: Formerly these meetings of Presbytery reminded me of one of the waters of Jericho, sometimes there was not a little bitterness. Instead of refreshing, the draught scalded our lips. But some prophet of the Lord has passed by, and thrown 'the branch' into the well; for its waters to-day are very sweet. 'The Lord hath done great things for us; wherefore we are glad.'

"A similar spirit is spreading in many parts of Scotland. Some who, in the various country towns and villages, 'wait for the consolation of Israel,' come over to Edinburgh, and attend the noon meeting for a day or two. When these return, they communicate with their friends. An evangelistic union meeting is arranged; a demand reaches Edinburgh for one or more to come