

strangers who have become fellow-worshippers. Especially do we hold this to be the case with young men and women, particularly the former. They come to the city from their distant homes with hearts that ache at the separation from those to whom their whole wealth of love has been given. While hurried in the labors of the week they do not so much mind the smart of separation, but on the Sabbath they have plenty of time to think of home and old friends, and it seems desolate to them to meet Sabbath after Sabbath with a great congregation, to no one of whom are they bound by the slightest tie of sympathy. They come a while, expecting that somebody will say a kind word to them, that they may even here find a hand-pressure of welcome; they wait and linger on the threshold as if to invite a kind word, but it does not come. They intermit attendance, perhaps fall into the hands of some of Satan's colporteurs, who hold out both hands toward them, and in the company of errorists or open transgressors they commence their descent swift to ruin. Had they been greeted in their early attendance upon the sanctuary with a warm welcome from some Christian man who should have introduced them into the sympathetic circle of the good of their own age, they might have been saved. Don't sacrifice the welfare of immortal souls to a poor punctilio about propriety."

PRAYER-MEETINGS.

The piety and usefulness of the Church are most intimately connected with its prayer-meetings. Whether as cause or effect, it is found that the degree of the one is always in proportion to the interest manifested in the other. It will therefore be seen at once that this is a

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subject which claims the most careful attention of the pastor. It is one which he must not only study, but carry out into practice from the first to the last day of his ministry. Everything demands of him that it should be made most prominent in both thought and practice.

(a) CONDUCTING PRAYER-MEETINGS.

The interests of the Church are so vitally connected with its prayer-meetings that the question of how they can be conducted so as to be made the most profitable is one which the pastor should carefully examine. Very much of the life and attractiveness and advantage of such meetings depends upon the mode in which they are conducted. They may be made so slow and cold and dull as to be positively repulsive, or they may be made so full of joyous animation as to prove the happy hours of the week. Great stress should be laid on this point, and it should receive earnest attention. It is deemed of so much importance that we shall go into considerable detail concerning it.

Our suggestions have been gathered from all quarters; they are the result of experience; they have all been well tried, and they are perfectly practicable, so that they can be carried out under almost any circumstances of pastor or congregation. It is certain that they will greatly help in giving interest and profit to meetings which are too often but little attractive, and are consequently shunned by all excepting those who are led to them by the imperative demands of duty. All our recommendations need not be carried out at each meeting; some of them are general, and should characterize every gathering for social worship, while some of them can be used at one time and some at another. Each one