

They invariably sat in the same places, he to rest his right arm on the table, and she her left, as they talked, counselled and advised with their visitors. Here was the seat of the wonderful power which worked through them. No one who entered that closet of devotion but felt its influence upon them. Would that the faithful camera could reproduce that scene!

It was my privilege and duty to enter that inner shrine, many times, under all kinds of conditions of church exigencies, and invariable the accompaniment on their part was earnest prayer on bended knee.

In the winter of 1865-66 an affectual door for advancement was opened, and to the inexpressible satisfaction of these watchmen on the walls we all felt that the word had come, "Go forward."

When the design for the house had been settled upon the estimated cost of the structure exceeded the value of unincumbered property which was in the possession of the members of the church.

The contracts were let for the various parts of the work early in the season of 1866. Pledges of aid had been obtained in Bangor, Portland, and other places. While the work of construction went on from week to week, prayer and planning about ways and means went on in that closet kitchen. On one occasion, as I called there, Mrs. Spaulding said to me, "We will get all the shingles you will need without the use of any money." They went to their friends in the Niles neighborhood and vicinity, and coaxed and urged the men there to help to that extent. Such pleading could not be withstood, and right in the month of June the brethren and their friends went into the swamps, and cut and carried out on their shoulders the bolts of cedar which they then made into the shingles.

By such efforts the roof was covered, and so well that the same shingles are doing duty on that roof to-day.

The Fourth of July brought the severest test of faith and works which was met with in that year. The two Portland churches had subscribed liberally in our aid, and payments from them were relied upon to meet the midsummer bills of wages and supplies. The great fire which so cruelly ravaged that city, on that day, destroyed the possibility of a single dollar reaching us from the