

bably the first one. It is deeply interesting. It was attended by a great multitude, and the greatest harmony prevailed. The occasion was one of vast magnitude. Events hitherto unthought of, had just transpired; an enterprize, big with importance to the whole universe, had been undertaken. Every heart, every thought, every hand, in that vast assemblage, was engaged.—Not a jarring note was heard; and the occasion was one of exquisite and uninterrupted enjoyment. It was held on the first Sabbath. It celebrated creation's birth. God rested from his labors to attend it. "The morning stars SANG TOGETHER! and ALL THE SONS OF GOD shouted for joy!" The first religious Association was held in heaven. It has continued until the present moment; the church on earth is daily sending up her hosts to join it. It will continue on to eternity, for there

"Congregations ne'er break up,
And Sabbaths never end."

But descending to earth, we find that Associations for the worship of God, have formed no small part of the externals of devotion, in all ages of the Church.—From the time that "men began to call upon the name of the Lord," under the patriarchal dispensation, down through the assemblings of the Jews, on their Sabbaths, their New moons, and their three yearly Associations, until "the day of Pentecost had fully come," as related in the 2d chapter of Acts; such meetings were of frequent occurrence, nor can their authority be questioned; and from that period, when "there were together devout men out of every nation under heaven," onward to the celebrated Council held at Jerusalem, when the leading brethren in the church, "the Apostles and Elders came together to consider of the matter," in which all the churches were interested; and down to the present day, all branches of the Christian church, in all places, however they may have designated them, and however they may have conducted them, have had their Associations. They have "come together to consider of the matter:" they have held their stated religious gatherings: and the propriety, utility and scriptural au-