

feel rewarded, by witnessing the effects of the *Magazine* in increasing the knowledge and piety of its readers; and in having an organ of communication between the different Baptist Churches in Canada, and one through which they may "contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the Saints."

During the past year, many of our friends and acquaintances have been taken from us, by our remorseless enemy—*Death*. They entered upon the year that has just closed, with as pleasing anticipations of pleasure and long life as we did; and had as reasonable a hope of attaining them. But they are gone; and "the place that knew them, now knows them no more." The contemplation of this should remind us of the uncertainty of human life, and warn us to prepare for the coming of the Son of Man; for he often comes as "a thief in the night." Let us beware, therefore, lest he come and find us loitering in the vineyard, or sleeping at our posts; and *whatsoever our hand findeth to do, do it with our might, for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither we are all hastening.*

Our political horizon, during the past year, seemed dark and portending. Angry controversy, between different parties, excited almost the whole attention of the people. Even the minister left the sacred desk, and the editor of the religious newspaper his appropriate labours, to mingle in the discussion of the all-absorbing topic. It seemed as if it were a vortex into which all were irresistibly drawn. If this should meet the eye of any such, let them be entreated to leave the discussion of such subjects to those who have not more important business in hand; and to attend to their flocks, and to the cultivation of religious literature. In consequence of these disputes, friend has been alienated from friend, and brother from brother; and, consequently, religion has declined in the hearts of those who have indulged in such feelings. But may we not indulge the hope, that a better state of things is about to dawn upon us—that the mission of our present Governor may be the means of establishing the Government upon a *firm and solid basis*—and that the Government which may

be established may be seated in *the affections of the people*. That this happy result may follow, let our prayers constantly ascend to heaven, that our Rulers may be led to adopt such measures as will tend to the *peace and prosperity* of these Provinces.

Religion has generally been in a low and languishing state during the past year. Vice has abounded to a most alarming extent. Intemperance has raised her hydra-head, and slain her tens of thousands; and she has defied all the efforts of *Temperance Societies* to stay her destructive course. Many of those who call themselves Christians, have witnessed her ravages upon the bodies and souls of men, and have not even raised their hands to stay its progress. No! they even would not give up a temporary gratification to save others from the *fangs* of this *cruel monster*. This state of things has been principally caused by the military operations which were carried on during last winter. At that time, numbers of young men, of every grade of character, were brought together; and it is a well-known fact, that wherever people congregate under such circumstances, *there vice*, in many forms, is seen in its native deformity. It seeks not the shades of night, but manifests itself at noon-day; unblushingly exhibiting itself before the gaze of the giddy multitude.

But although vice has so increased, and the minds of men have been so absorbed in the exciting topics of the day, yet, the Spirit of God has not entirely left us; for in several places its power has been manifested in the conversion of sinners. But such instances have been few. Let our readers, therefore, pray, that the Spirit's influence may descend in copious showers upon our churches, and that such "a revival" may take place as was never witnessed in these northern climes. If our readers wish the present year to be one in which many will be added to the fold of Christ, let them labour and pray. Without prayer, all our other efforts will be of little avail; but with it, much good may be accomplished; for "it moves the hand that moves the universe." Let, therefore, all our efforts to do good be accompanied with faithful, fervent prayer; "seeking first the Kingdom of God, and its righteousness."