

What hinders the enjoyment of revivals in our Churches, the outpouring of the Spirit, and the conversion of souls? This is a question to be thoughtfully pondered. Unbelief may suggest difficulties and propose delays to a true and solemn seeking after God with the whole heart, but faith will realize the necessity for action in proving God. In our view, one such step is that proposed by this united approach to God in prayer; but let us beware of defective prayers—faithless, thankless, formal, sin-shielding, hypocritical prayer. Let us draw nigh to God, and cry mightily from a full heart—"Oh that thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence."

NOTES OF A RECENT VISIT TO THE LOWER PROVINCES.

The last number of this Journal contained a graphic account of the assembly, held in Yarmouth, N.S., of the Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. A few additional notes of the visit on the part of the Canadian deputation may not be unacceptable.

The first may relate to the improved condition of Congregational matters since a visit four years ago. At that time there was universal discouragement. After the spending of much money and time and heart on a College, the building was burnt, and the Institution extinct. The few churches were not supplied with pastors, save in a very few instances, and it was not clear where suitable men could be obtained. At that time the junction of Missionary movements with ours in Canada was proposed, and the next year carried into effect. Attempts to get up a College were abandoned for evangelistic efforts; and differences of sentiment and heart-burnings were buried in an united resolve to strengthen the things that remained, and to enlarge the sphere of Home missions. The result has been peace and concord at all meetings of the Union; the supply of several churches with pastors from Canada—a valuable vacation work of successive theological students from Toronto; and a decided advance in the tone of feeling. Despondency has given way to buoyant hope: the brethren thank God and take courage.

Yarmouth is beautifully situated on the South-west point of Nova Scotia. We heard from one of the members of the church, who had been a partner in the company that bought the wreck of the ill-fated "Hungarian," many affecting stories of correspondence with the relatives of the dead. He superintended the diving operations, and therefore had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the details of found bodies and goods. Most of the bodies have been carried out to sea, or consumed by marine animals; comparatively few having been recovered. A vast quantity of goods, however, have been recovered, so that the company made a very handsome profit out of the purchase of the wreck. We saw on one of the wharves at Yarmouth one of her boilers and her chain cable, which had been raised from the bottom.

The town is long and narrow, containing some three or four thousand inhabitants. It is decidedly Protestant; very few Roman Catholics dwell there. The churches are Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational, and the Roman Catholic. There is also, if I remember rightly, a German church. The Tabernacle (Congregational) is the finest building,