

to make a passing observation on the nature and intent of an Association of churches, as constituted in our Denomination.

It is perhaps generally known that we maintain the distinct and exclusive right of every church of Christ to govern itself, and to act independently of any other authority; whether the same be that of an individual, or of any number of persons without its own body; which right we conceive to be plainly deducible from Scripture precept and example; and in this point, we believe, we coincide with the Independents or Congregationalists both in England and America, with whom our only difference is on the subject of Baptism. But altho' we firmly adhere to this point of independant jurisdiction in each church over its own government and members, yet do we highly appreciate the privilege of the ministers and brethren of the churches frequently assembling together in an associated body to cultivate mutual Christian friendship, and consult together for the general interests of the kingdom of our common Redeemer.

For this purpose, as early as the year 1800, the ministers of our churches and those of New Brunswick, formed themselves into an Association, which met for the first time in Granville; but it was not until some years after, that the objects and limits of the Body were fully and properly defined; and however in the early stages of its existence, the Association may have occasionally and unknowingly gone in any degree beyond its legitimate and professed bounds, yet has it always, does now, and we trust ever will, utterly disclaim any right of interference in the government of the churches; its great and only object being, as far as such churches are immediately concerned, to act merely as "an advisory council," when called on for that purpose. We are fully aware that the utmost circumspection should ever be observed, lest thro' the infirmity of whatever is human, any undue assumption of power should spring up, or that which is in itself good should grow into evil; but we truly believe that the great ends for which our association was originally commenced, have been often and singularly blessed by the Lord—in cementing together the bond of christian union among brethren, who would otherwise, perhaps, have been forever separated, and unknown to each other, and in combining their efforts for the diffusion of truth, and the enlargement of Christ's kingdom, from which, in a great measure, as far as human agency is concerned, has proceeded the rapid increase of our churches, and the spread of Gospel light throughout many parts of the land which had heretofore presented a dreary moral wilderness.

We feel also convinced, that the most beneficial results have attended our associations in the immediate neighbourhood wherever they have been held; the scriptural, earnest and affectionate strain of preaching, which has always prevailed among men whose motives were unimpeached, and whose lives bore testimony to their sincerity, has generally left a savour of the divine presence for a long period afterwards; and we

believe many alive, can date

Most of the at the meeting and there being menced at 4 o'clock to a large congregation of the cross with zeal and at the places which the venerable labourers in the

On Sabbath delivered an earnest and attentive audience and that of Brothers in this district the value in which Brother Bill presented. The great improvement of the public Teacher, the ministry of the powers to the full. On Sabbath afternoon at Truro, word with great and others of the tidings of salvation.

On Monday 27th Divine Service, with a tory sermon from the fraught with the truth, bly set forth what dealings with his Brother Joseph C. Wick Association, sermon from Matthew, hortations which calculated to improve God, as well as to a serious consideration of our spiritual interests. Praised be God, both in Old and New Testament.

The business of conducted with the utmost attention of all present and the great truth set forth from the Mosaic law, the expression of his wrath and propriety have seldom witnessed an impression on the