

Nominations Committee :—Revs. F. H. Marling, D. Macallum, R. Brown, D. McGregor, Messrs. L. H. Arms, and H. R. Wales.

Finance Committee :—Messrs. James Fraser, A. S. Bedford, W. W. Copp, J. Smith, and H. G. Grist.

#### THE ANNUAL ADDRESS

by the Retiring Chairman, Rev. E. Barker, was delivered on the first evening to a large congregation. The following is a bare outline :—

Though we had great reason for thankfulness that the Roll of the Union was unbroken by death, our natural feelings compelled us to note the decease of four ministerial brethren, who, if not in connection with us at the last, had either been so once, or had been in full sympathy and in co-operation with us, and two of whom had passed through our College ; viz. :—Rev. P. Shanks, J. Middleton, A. Burpee, and J. Porter. Through grace our losses would be gain to us, by the stimulating and purifying influences they were calculated to impart.

It was not easy to select a topic out of the many that present themselves, in the busy hum of our day, suitable for the occasion. But we should, at all events, avoid that species of hypochondriacism which consisted in searching after sore spots in our denominational proceedings, and aggravating them until the body became actually diseased. This would inevitably lead to suicide. We should rather learn to know our principles and value them, so that we would love to work them out. There would then be health and growth. Too much confidence was sometimes placed in statistics, and wrong inferences were often drawn from them in estimating our strength. Truth and purity are a better criterion than numbers. The latter are sometimes a source of weakness. Principles also may spread and become infused into other bodies with greater rapidity than the numerical growth of a body, just as the rains become absorbed into the earth and thereby promote vegetation. The different evangelical bodies are all influencing one another in this way, though we fancy, whether correctly or not, that we influence others more than they do us. We may borrow compactness and consolidation from them without sacrificing independence and freedom ; but we impart to them a higher appreciation of pure communion, freedom from the trammels of limited creeds, and greater independence to separate congregations. Pride or prejudice should not prevent our being willing thus to give and take ; we would be the losers by not doing so. All the denominations should therefore regard themselves as trying to help, rather than to hinder, one another, as we should all be engaged in the one warfare. This would be the first step towards effecting Christian union, about which so many of our neighbours are now concerning themselves. And this subject demands our most serious consideration. If we settle down contented with the present state of things in the Church in this respect, we disregard our Saviour's feelings and prayers. We should overcome the difficulties if possible. It was a current objection to organic union that such was opposed to the analogy of nature—diversity in unity. But it was just the contrary. Our present divisions were caused by an unwillingness to tolerate diversity in unity. Those of kindred tastes and opinions joined together, and excluded others. Each denomination was now, in a measure, restricted of necessity to its own peculiarities in teaching, worship, and literature. Hence, as a natural consequence, ignorance and bigotry. Another objection was, that as divisions had helped to purify the Church, they would still produce the same effect, and organic union would lead to stagnation. But the same might be said of afflictions, and even sin. In fact, it was not the division of *true* Christians that had benefited the Church—this had weakened it—but it was the elimination of the pure from the impure. It was said, too, that, while a united organization was impossible, spiritual union was sufficient. But would a mere spiritual union, amid such divisions as now exist in our cities and towns, have satisfied the apostles in their day—say, for instance, in the Church at Jerusalem or that at