

THE
CANADIAN PRESBYTER.

MAY, 1858.

PERSONAL CHRISTIAN EFFORT.

In many parts of our country prayer meetings are being held daily to invoke the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit among the Churches of Christ. God's people have shown some earnestness in this matter. They believe and feel that there will be no saving revival or conversion of souls unless by the agency of the Holy Spirit; therefore they pray. They are sensible of a want in the Churches—a general apathy and deadness in the religious community—for which no remedy can be found but the power of Divine grace. These are hopeful symptoms. They are in themselves a *revival*. We trust that they are the first breath of that gale of spiritual influences which shall yet pass through our land. The work is spreading apace; interest is awakened in regard to religion among many who had never before given a serious thought to the claims of eternity. By all means, therefore, let prayer meetings be everywhere multiplied, and let the Churches give every facility and aid to the increase and intensity of religious desire and to the public expression of Christian affection. Such efforts will assuredly be blessed. They have so far already in many places produced impressions of deep solemnity, with great tenderness of heart and conscience, among professing Christians, young and old; they have led some sinners to enquire what they must do to be saved. True, nothing so striking as that which has been witnessed in the United States has yet occurred among us. Solemnity and tenderness have been more characteristic of our movements than vivid awakening or extensive conversion; yet should we give God thanks for the measure of grace he has vouchsafed to us, and instead of relaxing, increase our efforts for the advancement of the glorious work.

While however we aid these union meetings for prayer, and rejoice in them as a fruit of the Spirit, let us not think that in them our Christian work is exhausted. Much more than this of *personal effort* is yet required of Christ's disciples. We may despair of the work of grace and salvation greatly advancing,