

not good for us that all things should go well with us. We are apt to grow cold and careless. Hardships soften us and draw out our affections. After all what is money? its only object is to bring happiness, and we can often be happiest without it. May God speed you all.

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### LIBERTY AND OBLIGATION.

BY REV. J. ELLIOT, OF HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.\*

**BELoved BRETHREN**,—As this Annual Meeting of the Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is convened in Halifax, I would that it had devolved on some brother from a distance to deliver the annual address.

But, having last year been called to preside at the meeting in St. John, I must needs occupy this position to-day for a short time as retiring Chairman; and, before proceeding to say more in that capacity, I tender to you, in the name of the people here *statedly* assembling, a respectful and cordial welcome, with prayer to God that this Annual Session may prove not only of value to the whole of our Union, but an immediate and signal blessing to the congregation somewhat recently formed, and the church more recently organized in this place of worship.

Since the last meeting of this Union great movements in the kingdom of Christ and the kingdoms of this world—some of them involving much of the painful, others wearing a gloomy and portentous aspect, and not a few teeming with tokens for good—have arrested the attention of many, conveying great lessons from the God of providence and of all grace.

“The Lord reigneth, let the earth rejoice.” “Why leap ye, ye high hills?” ye aspiring systems of professed infallibility, of avowed infidelity, of vain superstition, of high sounding theory? “This is the hill which God desireth to dwell in.” “The mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.”

In connection with the fulfilment of this grand prediction, two great principles, now rapidly gaining on human thought, are yet to be far more fully and practically recognized; and, to submit a series of views and considerations in regard to those principles looked at conjointly, is the principal object of this address.

Our subject is this:—**THE CONJOINT PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY AND OBLIGATION.** These principles are not at all new in the universe. They are co-extensive with the moral creation. When Jehovah laid the foundations of the earth, “the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” How long they had previously existed is not revealed to us; but from the light shed on our minds respecting angelic natures, it seems perfectly clear that, placed at the commencement of their being in a probationary state, they were conscious at once of obligation and liberty of action.

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\* An address delivered at Halifax, on Friday evening, September 18, 1871, on retiring from the Chair of the Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.