

Now there are many in the world who realize the hallowed influence of prayer. Others, again, in early childhood have been taught at a mother's knee to lisp the name of Deity, or, perhaps, at some early stage in their history they have been deeply impressed, and have commenced the practice of this duty merely as a duty, yet know nothing of true prayer. No wonder there are thousands of petitions that come from human lips and yet accomplish nothing; nay, we would be surprised if they did accomplish anything. Why? Because the essential element, faith, is not mingled with them. That enabled Peter to come forth from the dungeon where he was chained between two soldiers and seemed impossible? That procured liberty, and permitted him to walk the streets again a free man? Was it not the fervent prayers which his fellow disciples sent up in his behalf that were instrumental in effecting his release? And though this same agent God moves the hearts of men to supply the food that fills the mouths of Muller's Orphans. Nor is the granary empty yet, nor the ear of the reaper of Prayer weary with continued reaping. We can still send up our petitions of prayer with electric speed, and they come back to us again richly freighted with choice blessing. True prayer will give an answer as facts abundantly verify; and in these modern days we have much opportunity to address the Throne of God seeking for spiritual blessings.—And glorious results are being achieved through the employment of this mighty power. Look at the wave of revival that is sweeping over the British Isles. Witness the stirring among the dry bones in many congregations of late. What has caused these movements? Have not the souls been faithfully and earnestly communing with God for refreshing times, and their answer to their prayers copious and coming down. And are there not subjects at the present moment in communion with the Presbyterian Church sending the earnest prayers of all who love Zion? Look at all our congregations and see the vast army of drones, inert,

inactive professors needing the breath of the Spirit of the living God to kindle a flame of heavenly zeal within their cold hearts. Hear our beloved missionaries in the Isles of the Sea earnestly pressing upon us to plead with God that the accursed soul-destroying slave traffic may speedily be abolished. See the many vacancies in the home field with no one to cultivate them. And do not our office bearers need much of that wisdom that cometh down from above to enable them to bring to a glorious consummation the union of the negotiating Churches? Should we not present these subjects and others of a kindred nature before God; press them earnestly and with strong faith and who can predict what will follow! Oh, let there be more true prayer from all our hearts and homes, and then we will witness religious awakenings not in solitary congregations but throughout the length and breadth of these Maritime Provinces.

### THE DESIDERATA OF THE VICTORIA CHURCH

Express well what is greatly needed and to be sought after by the Office Bearers and Members of our own church in the Lower Provinces. The wants, and deficiencies of Acadia, and of Canada are strikingly similar to those of Australia. The following notes may therefore be read with profit:—

There are one or two *desiderata* in connection with the transaction of business in the Assembly that must be acknowledged to be important. The speaking, on many points, might be abbreviated. The time of the Assembly should be so allocated as that all matters of business arranged beforehand should be allowed their proper share of attention. The practice of expending unrestricted time upon the questions that come before the Assembly during its earlier sittings, and then hurrying over those that come after, or, it may be, shutting them out altogether, is one which admits of amendment. It would be well, too, if the higher interests of religion—those having an immediate bearing on the revival and extension of the work of God in the midst of us—could be allowed to engross a larger share of time and attention, and that matters of form and government should have assigned to them a subordinate place.

The various reports presented to the