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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE UNION.

Once more the time draws nigh when the delegates of the Congregational churches of Ontario and Quebec, and those who serve them in the Gospel, will meet together in their annual convocation. We have so often availed ourselves of like opportunities to address them a preparatory word of exhortation, that little remains to be said on this occasion.

The Union Meeting is always full of interest and importance to the brotherhood of our faith and order. But, good as it is, how much better it might be! Who does not come away still hungry? We cannot express our own sense of the undeveloped *capabilities* of such a gathering. Think of it—after working “every man apart” throughout the live-long year, we come together into one place for four or five brief days, to take counsel on common interests, to enjoy personal fellowship, to ascertain the results of previous movements and to lay out plans for the future. It is a winding up of the denominational clock for another twelve months. How precious the time! how important the issues! what need of wisdom from above!

What is necessary, in order to have a good Union meeting? First, we would say, that the brethren should *meet*; that every minister and every delegate should be there. The humblest, the most silent brother may be assured that he will be missed if he does not come, and that his countenance will sharpen the face of his friends. We trust that no delegate will take the utterly anti-Congregational ground that “the ministers can transact the business without him.” Besides all the good a church-representative may do, the devotional services are a rich means of grace, and the business meetings are full of instruction,—an admirable training-school for future service to the church and the churches. We hope, therefore, that we shall see a *large* meeting at Hamilton, and that “the whole body” will be “compactcd by that which every joint supplieth.”

If we have a large meeting, we must have a large *collection* from every church, that there may be no difficulty in meeting every member's travelling expenses in full. We would especially commend the honorable conduct of