

law of those feasts, that man must not appear before the Lord empty; if our hearts be here empty, what will it avail us that our congregation is full? It is the soul that appears before God; if that be empty of holy joy in God, and holy concern for the welfare of the public, which ought to fill us on such occasions, it is but the carcase and shell, without the life and kernel of a Thanksgiving Day." The Annual Thanksgiving Day which is observed throughout the whole of the neighboring republic, is an institution of which the Christian people of the United States may well be proud. It must, on the contrary, be a subject of humiliation and regret to many in Canada, that while the day appointed by proclamation for a General Fast or Thanksgiving appears among the public holidays in the Province of Quebec, the inhabitants of Ontario are denied any such privilege.

It was in view of this omission, and the fact that as a time had been appointed for holding such a day of thanksgiving in the Province of Quebec, that the Congregational Union, through its Secretary, the Rev. F. H. Marling, of Toronto, suggested to the Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church the desirableness of combined action on the part of the various evangelical denominations in appointing a day to be observed throughout the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The Assembly entertained the proposition, and recommended the third Thursday of November to a Committee appointed to correspond with the other Churches, of which Dr. R. F. Burns, of Montreal, was convener. This Committee reported that the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, the Congregational Union, the Wesleyan New Connexion and Primitive Methodist Conferences, had accepted the day proposed as their day of thanksgiving. Since the report was given in, other religious bodies have added their sanction to the day, the sixteenth of November. It will therefore depend altogether on the loyalty of men in business to their respective Churches, whether the day appointed be publicly observed or no.

It is to be hoped, that the day being one of the Church's appointment, the scandal of too many national thanksgiving seasons in the past may be taken out of the way. Even Augustine, in his day, had to warn his hearers against celebrating the feast day in a carnal manner. "Are we not to rejoice on this day?" the revellers asked. "Yes," replied the father, "would to God that you would give yourselves to the true cause of rejoicing, and not fatal gifts. Your presence in God's house will make you hear words of joy, but if by intemperance you sully the temple of God, the apostle Paul declares 'if any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy.'" The word "ale" that occurs as a termination in many ecclesiastical terms, such as Whitsunale, Lambale, Midsummerale, whatever its original meaning may have been, came to denote the beverage, by drinking which to excess, men preferred for centuries to keep a day of thanksgiving to God. It is because of such perversions of the day, as well as on account of their views in regard to the prerogative of the civil magistrate, that the Quakers decline to join in the observance of public holidays for religious purposes. In the directory for the Public Worship of God, a paragraph in the section concerning the observation of days of public thanksgiving is taken up with directions to the minister to admonish his hearers to beware of carnal mirth and rejoicing. Such abuse of the day as we have indicated will certainly not cease, however, until those at least who make a Christian profession are found attaching more importance to its appointment. The love of gain and the love of pleasure fight with each other, and against the love of God,