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THE SECOND SABBATH OF NOVEMBER.

A DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Attention was called in our last number by the esteemed Secretary of the Union, to an important resolution recommending that the second Sabbath of November be observed as a day of special prayer, for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit on our land. The resolution is brief, but there is much embraced in it. Its importance overwhelms us. Hence we long for words to encourage to the solemn adoption of the recommendation. We cannot rid ourselves of the thought that much depends on the conscientious working out of the principle—that prayer is powerful in securing the blessings which the churches lack. Let this be a united, and a faithful effort. The good of our own souls, and the eternal interests of others may depend on it. We live in an eventful age. The fact is undeniable that great religious progress characterises our times. There is a breaking forth on the right hand and on the left. Desolate spots have become beautiful as the garden which the Lord hath blessed. A continued and extensive work of grace in other lands has cheered our hearts. There are therefore questions which force themselves on us as to our own position. Is religion in this land in a satisfactory state? Are we using the means of revival in the right spirit? Are the desolations of Zion causes of grief and humiliation? Why is the Spirit of the Lord straitened with us, when all subduing grace manifests its power elsewhere? A calm and deliberate consideration of such inquiries will arouse to action. The effect will be the same as of old—"we wept when we remembered Zion." If formalism has wrought its deadly work on any, let us strive to break the enchantment. Religion must be active—the breath of life must quicken our own. Signs of weakness and decay must be marked. The remedy for all defects will be found in quickening from on high. Our help is in God. The out-pouring of the Spirit would put a new face on all our efforts. Without the work of the Spirit no church can exist. Forms, creeds, ordinances do not constitute a church. The living members, of which the Church of Christ is composed, are born of the Spirit. The link between the death of Christ as an atonement, and the personal enjoyment of the benefits flowing from that death to the soul, is this work of the Spirit, in which he takes of the things of Christ, and shows them to the soul. There is undoubtedly much faithful preaching in our land, but be it remembered that it is God that giveth the increase. The prisoner may hear of freedom and be invited to walk forth from his dungeon, but without a willing mind to embrace the boon, he remains in captivity. The sick may possess a cure, but unless the remedy is applied, the work of death goes on. The unwillingness of man to