

The Harbinger.

MONTREAL, APRIL 15, 1843.

UNION OF BISHOPS AND CHURCHES.—We confidently anticipate the congratulations of our Christian readers on the event which it is now our privilege to announce. On another page, they will find a notice of a meeting of evangelical ministers of all denominations to be held in July next in the British Metropolis; and we are happy to inform them that a similar meeting, on a smaller scale, will be held in this city, on the *twentieth* of the present month. Amidst the strifes of party spirit, and the rage of ecclesiastical domination, from which Canada is not entirely free, it is delightful to contemplate the essential unity, in *faith* and *hope* and *charity*, of so many Bishops and Members of Christian Churches who, though conscientiously differing from each other in subordinate matters, are willing and anxious to avow before the world their common adherence to the cardinal principles of the Christian religion—and their common devotedness to the great objects of their high vocation. One of these objects is the *evangelization of the world*, and this will have a prominent place in the proceedings of the approaching convocation, of which we hope, in our next number, to give some particulars. Meanwhile we would very earnestly urge on our beloved brethren in other parts of the colony the expediency of following up this movement by similar assemblages, since, by so doing, they will lift up a practical testimony to the unity of the Churches, strengthen each other's hands, increase by mutual communication their fraternal love, and secure the large and liberal bestowment of that "blessing from on high," which is to the moral soil what "the dew" was to the Mount "of Hermon." Let us shew that there are "joints and bands" which unite the members of the Body of Christ, and constitute them *one*, and that the artificial ligatures which human folly has formed and human authority has sanctioned, though securing to some extent an outward *uniformity*, are but awkward and unworthy substitutes for that divine mechanism which combines so marvellously yet so effectually the distinctness and freedom of each member, with the mutual subserviency, and harmonious union of the whole. Let us seek for

ourselves and for all our Christian brethren, the divine spirit of truth and love, that under its influence, vitality may be diffused throughout "the workmanship of God;" and the Body of Christ, complete in Him who is the Head, may stand before the world, erect in all the moral dignity of freedom, and earnestly intent on the realization of those great designs for which it "lives and moves and has its being." Such a theme tempts us to dilate, and did our space permit, we might dwell at length on the advantages, immediate and remote, which this manifestation of Christian unity is so well fitted to secure. Let the earnest prayers of our devout readers ascend to heaven, that the measures thus adopted and commended, may be sanctioned and sanctified by the effectual benediction of "the Lord of all," and that we may speedily and largely realize the desired result, in the extension of his spiritual kingdom, and the universal recognition of his sole supremacy over the conscience and the heart!

Second Congregational Church.—An interesting Social Meeting, in connexion with this Church, was held on the evening of the 6th instant, in the large room, *Place d'Armes*, at present occupied as a place of worship. After partaking of tea, &c. provided by the ladies of the Congregation, the Rev. J. J. Carruthers took the chair, and Messrs. Mackay, Robinson and Bowles, from the Congregational Institute, Messrs. Hewson and Merriman, from the Baptist Theological Seminary, Mr. Robertson, Advocate, and several male members of the Church, addressed the meeting in support and enforcement of the following sentiments:

1. The gospel of the grace of God, whilst instrumentally the wisdom and the power of God unto salvation, directly promotes our personal happiness in the present life, and strengthens whilst it sanctifies the bond of social union.

2. Benevolence is the peculiar characteristic of Christianity, and it is our privilege to live in a day, when Christians are, in some measure, alive to the claims of sinful and suffering humanity on their practical compassion.

3. The present state of the world and the recent events that have transpired, especially in Asia, demand our grateful acknowledgments to divine providence, and should stimulate us to perseverance and enlarged liberality in the work of the world's conversion.

4. It is matter of devout congratulation, that no Christian Church can now be deemed complete in its organization, that does not contain some provision for the spread of the everlasting gospel.

5. The activity of the enemies of the truth