

movement would be a careful review of English History of the 17th century.* Pastors and Delegates from Churches will find announcements which concern them, under "Official Notices." Let us, one and all, seek grace to go up to the approaching meeting with lively spiritual affections, "*seeking first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness.*" Let zeal for the truth, and love for the brethren, draw us together, and then shall we find it good to be there, for He who walketh in the midst of the seven churches will bless our meeting.

E.

DUTIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS TO EACH OTHER.

It is possible to look on Church connection in too limited an aspect. Many we fear in becoming members, have no higher views than those which relate to their personal well-being and growth in grace. That is indeed pre-eminently important, since the progress of the soul in personal fellowship with the Redeemer, is demanded of all who make a profession of religion. It is not, however, to be forgotten, that churches exist as embodiments of the social principle. Persons of one heart and of one mind are brought together for mutual assistance and benefit. They form a relation to one another, because they believe in the same Lord. This relationship involves the discharge of duties, and as it is not adopted from mere expediency, but as appointed by the Head of the Church, these duties become, in the observance of them, proofs of obedience to Him. The New Testament contains several epistles addressed to believers dwelling in a particular place. Now, it will be found in reading these letters, that duties are mentioned which can only be discharged by the brethren collectively. Are we wrong then in concluding that where no call is made for the observance of these obligations, a defective representation of primitive christianity is given?

Joining a Church brings solemn duties, not only of a personal character, but of a public nature. These are all based on love,—*Christian love*. "By this shall all men know (says Jesus) that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Without this the very first element of fellowship is wanting. A love which glows in the heart to Jesus warms the whole atmosphere around. When you find a man whose influence chills and shrivels up the genial tendrils of the heart, can you trace anything of Christ's spirit in him? If he loves not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? A large iceberg cools the air for miles in its neighbourhood, no less will a person of position in a Christian Church, but failing to show the loving spirit of the Redeemer, affect the feelings and safety of all who come within his influence. Genuine love is not confined to mere sentimental expressions, but clothes itself in deeds of kindness. The Church is a brotherhood, a family in which all the members tenderly sympathize with one another. "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." "Comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak." The recognition and practice of these blessed obligations would drive the spirit of discord and strife from every christian society, and develop a fellowship like to that above.

Church members are called diligently to *co-operate* with each other in all the objects contemplated by their union. Their own edification, the conver-

* See an important paper in this number, page 344.