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WHY HAVE WE NO NATIONAL THANKSGIVING ?

Very general regret has lately been expressed among all sections of the Christian Church that, notwithstanding the urgent representations that have been made to the Government in favour of such an observance, another year—a year of very great and signal blessing—has been allowed to pass without any NATIONAL THANKSGIVING. The Presiding Officers of several religious bodies, learning that the Government at Ottawa had decided *not* to appoint such a day, endeavoured, as the next best thing, to agree among themselves upon some day for simultaneous observance by their respective denominations. But that also failed, some preferring (in the absence of a public *holiday*, and suspension of business,) the appointment of a Sabbath, and others of a week-day. And thus it has happened, that in place of a National Thanksgiving, we have had a *fusillade* of little sectional attempts at one; and the tribes of Israel, instead of going up to the Feast, with the voice of joy and praise, in company, have straggled up to it one after another, as it best suited their convenience! The fact that so many religious denominations have kept Thanksgiving at all, under these adverse conditions, is evidence how widely the desire prevails for such an observance, and how generally it would have been kept, could it only have been made simultaneous.

We are aware that there are some good people who conscientiously object to the interference of the civil power in regard to any such matters. They tell us a nation cannot be made to fast, or be thankful, or be sober by Act of Parliament, and we admit it. But then nobody ever supposed it could. Neither can it be made honest or truthful by such means, and yet our Government very properly punishes theft and perjury, and in that and other ways, acknowledges the Christian religion and its divine morality. Why then may it not remind us of