

from the Church they attend, are not sufficiently careful to bring their children with them to their own place of worship, but permit them to attend the services of other denominations which are held in the immediate neighbourhood of their dwellings. The atmosphere of these Provinces or the institutions under which we live or the breezes that are wafted across from the adjoining republic do not furnish adequate cause for the state of things of which complaint is made.

WHAT WE NEED.

Such are but a few of the discouragements that might be referred to, and those touched on have been but glanced at. The report, however, must not be prolonged. As a Church we do need more spiritual life than we now have. Nobody will deny that. We need grace and much of it to enable us to overcome these difficulties that lie in our way. It is well known that a thorough knowledge of the difficulties that beset our path is equal to half the conquest of these difficulties. What we need in a word is the outpouring of the Spirit of God, such a flood of blessing as would float us high above the selfishness and formalism and worldly pride and fashion, and above all the inertness that bulk across the path of the gospel progress, that would submerge as in devouring waters all the unhallowed tendencies of our country and age. We pastors need such an outpouring that we may preach as we never did before, with a holy boldness and searching power that will take away the reproach of the bondage of the pulpit, combined with an affection that will refrain from giving useless offense, that will lead the people to a knowledge of God's words on which to base a healthy religious life; the other office-bearers, the Elders and Sabbath School Teachers and others that are co-workers with the pastors in the operations of the Church need that outpouring; and the people need times of refreshing from the Lord, so that the outward call of the gospel be made an effectual call, and that they may be raised day by day to the measure of the stature of men in Christ Jesus. If we would only respond to the challenge—"Prove me now herewith saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Respectfully submitted,
SAMUEL HOUSTON, *Convener.*

After the reading of the Report Rev. Robert Wilson spoke on a "Living membership essential to the prosperity of a church," and Rev. J. D. McGillivray on the "Spiritual training which Christian parents should give their children."

On motion of Rev. P. Morrison the Report was received, highly approved and the following recommendations adopted:—

1. That this Committee be authorized by the Synod to issue a set of queries, such as those now submitted, which Sessions are requested to answer to their respective Presbyteries as the material on which the reports of Presbyteries may be based.

2. That Presbyteries be recommended in concert with the several Sessions to arrange for special evangelistic services to be held as far as practicable in the congregations. In some cases this might be done in connection with Presbyterial visitations.

3. That the same liberty be given as last year with reference to addresses on practical subjects to be given in connection with the report at next Synod.

Acadia Mission.

The Report (published in our last) was approved, cordially adopted, and the Committee encouraged to prosecute its work.

UNION.

Rev. Dr. Bayne submitted the Union Report which is as follows:—

UNION COMMITTEE REPORT, 1871-72.

In submitting their Report of Procedure during the lapsed year, your Committee would first direct attention to the action taken by this Supreme Court at its last Session in St. John, N. B. By thus ascertaining definitely the point of departure, there will be obtained a more satisfactory view of the progress made.

On page 21 of Synod Minutes will be found the following final deliverance:

"The Committees on Union appointed last year by the Supreme Courts of the four Presbyterian Churches of British North America, having reported that a Union between the negotiating churches is practicable, desire farther to ascertain in some degree the mind of the church in general. The Synod therefore submits the following questions to Presbyteries and Sessions, with the request that they shall return an answer to the Convener of Committee on or before Aug. 31st ensuing.

"First.—Is a Union of the negotiating churches desirable?

"Secondly.—Are you willing that it should be carried into effect on a basis such as is published on Page 10 of these Minutes?"

In reference to this remit, returns were received by your Committee from *all the Presbyteries but that of Truro*, and from 43