

DELEGATE TO THE EVANGELICAL UNION,

which is another Congregational Association separated from them on doctrinal grounds which are now generally regarded as not only not fundamental, but altogether too slight to keep two such bodies apart. Hence a growing disposition has shown itself of late to unite, and evidently with a view to such an ultimate result, Dr. Pulsford moved the appointment of a delegate to that body, "to convey to them our Christian congratulations, and an expression of the interest we take in their affairs."

It was, he thought, "singularly opportune, not to say providential, that a highly esteemed clergyman in their very midst—a member of the Evangelical Union to which he desired a delegate to be appointed—a man universally honoured by all who knew him, or knew of him, alike for his piety, culture, and ability—had been chosen to preside over one of the Congregational Training Colleges for the education of their ministers. (Applause.) He said *their* ministers emphatically, for it was not improbable that in Aberdeen they might be very glad at some future time to welcome back some of Principal Fairbairn's pupils to occupy their pulpits, and exercise the office of the ministry in their midst. (Applause.) An association of churches, having among them such men as Morison, Kirk, Fairbairn, Ferguson, Guthrie, and many more like-minded able men, required no commendation. Their acknowledged piety, scholarship, ability, and usefulness, would compare favourably with the qualifications of the leading men of any church. (Applause.) He did not allow himself to go back upon the past. Time was a great healer of all strife, a harmoniser of discords, and a gentle but very effectual worker in all reformation. (Applause.) None of them were now what they were twenty years ago. It was no longer seemly for them to live so much apart from an association of Christian churches with whom they had so much in common, as not to exchange words of salutation at their annual gathering. (Applause.) The appointment of a delegate charged to bear to them the greetings and cordial expressions of interest of this Union would tend to lessen or harmonise whatever differences might yet remain." (Applause.)

The motion was adopted with only one dissenting voice.

At the public meeting in the evening, Principal Fairbairn delivered an address on "the influence of religion on the national life," which is spoken of as a "magnificent speech," but which, like Mr. Wight's is not yet reported.

The second session was occupied chiefly with the discussions of a proposed change in the constitution of the Union, which, if adopted, will make it a representative body, and more like our Canadian Unions. This, however, was followed by a conference of Congregationalists and a Conversazione, on several topics of interest—Disestablishment, Ordination, and the claims of Temperance; but our space is exhausted.

INTROSPECTION A CHRISTIAN DUTY.

While it is the duty of all immortal beings, exposed to the vicissitudes of human existence, to examine how they stand as to the great concerns of eternity, self-examination is a duty especially incumbent on professed followers of Christ; so that, as to their spiritual state, they may be neither deceivers nor deceived. The general increase of spiritual knowledge, the increased facilities for acquiring it, the ease with which attendants on a gospel ministry may learn the varieties and workings of Christian experience; the ease with which persons in good moral standing find admittance into Christian churches in the present day, together with the possibility of mistaking a few transient convictions, and anxious feelings, for conversion;—and, also, the lives of some professed Christians, to whom one might justly say, as Paul did to certain Galatians, "I stand in doubt of you," render