

with merely maintaining the means of grace for its own benefit, and making stated contributions, however large, for missionary purposes. A holy eagerness to push the conquests of the Gospel beyond the Church circle is necessary to vigorous Church life. The concentration of all effort upon itself is suicidal. In a new country like ours Churches should be willing to forego pastoral labor to a reasonable extent; and pastors should be willing to carry the glad tidings into destitute settlements. There is work for the brotherhood too, in this important field, and its performance would of necessity develop our resources, and secure the approval of heaven, other things being equal. The Churches with the greatest missionary spirit are the most prosperous; and defective views, as we deem them, do not very perceptibly hinder prosperity. We must be blind, if we fail to see this; and foolish, if we do not approve of it. Our denominational history in these Provinces contains some bright records of men who have endured hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and of Churches through whose consent, support, and coöperation, these services have been rendered; but our history as a whole is unsatisfactory in this particular, and will not compare favorably with some other denominations. We gain nothing by concealing the fact. All honor to those who are the most forward in securing the fulfilment of the promise, "Lo, I am with you always," by "going into all the world, and preaching the gospel to every creature."

4. *The fellowship of the Churches* has not always been faithfully maintained. This fellowship to day is very satisfactory. We thank God that we are bound together by love, and that this love increases year by year; that more than ever we can understand the meaning of the apostolic statement, in its spiritual application: "Whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it;" and next to the petition, "Thy kingdom come," we offer the prayer that the Lord will "make us to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all." But our Churches have not always maintained true fellowship, and our present numerical weakness is in part the result of the estrangement and isolation, we will not say the antagonism, of the Churches in former periods of our history. We are heartily agreed in asserting a scriptural independency; let us be equally earnest in maintaining a scriptural fellowship. It is scarcely necessary to point out the means of securing, or the method of expressing it. "As touching brotherly love, ye need not that I write unto you, for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another." "Brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." "Beloved, let us love one another."

5. Finally, has there not been in the past, is there not even now, some unfaithfulness to our *distinctive principles*? We hold much in common with the brotherhood of believers; we rejoice in the successful warfare upon the kingdom of darkness of all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth; the Lord's approval is an evidence of their call to the work of saving souls which we gladly recognise; and yet we organise churches on distinctive principles, maintain them not unfrequently through a scarcely perceptible growth for many years, and are reluctant to abandon the feeblest of them after the longest trial. These distinctive principles, if worthy of such tenacity, are also worthy of enunciation and defence, on suitable occasions, and in a Christian spirit. We do not make the Gospel too prominent;