

And the reason is, that no warrant for any such Courts, or procedure, can be found in the New Testament. In perfect consistency with this principle, however, it is manifestly possible, and every way desirable, that churches (by delegates) and ministers, should confer with each other, and express their united judgment on the great moral and religious questions of the day; and that, without enforcing uniformity in creed or worship, they should arrive, as nearly as possible, at unanimity in regard to everything affecting the prosperity of the denomination. Hence the Union was formed with the following objects in view, as stated in Article IV :

“1. To promote evangelical religion in connection with the Congregational denomination. 2. To cultivate brotherly affection, and co-operation in every thing relating to the interests of the associated Churches. 3. To establish fraternal correspondence with similar bodies elsewhere. 4. To address an annual or occasional letter to the associated Churches, accompanied with such information as may be deemed necessary. 5. To obtain accurate statistical information relative to the Congregational Churches throughout the British American Provinces. 6. To hold consultation on questions of interest connected with the cause of Christ in general.”

The Missionary Society, the College, and other denominational agencies, are entirely separate from the Union, and hold their annual meetings for the election of officers, and appropriation of funds, at the same time and place as that body, only as a matter of convenience.

The Union then, is a voluntary association, membership in which, although on many accounts desirable, is not essential to good standing in the denomination. Our only bond is that of christian love. “We be brethren.” No man is compelled, from fear of any “powers that be,” to connect himself with it, or to remain in it, after he has ceased to profit by attendance.

So great, however, is the mutual attraction, and so strong is the bond that holds us together that, as a matter of fact, almost every Congregational church and Minister in the country has sought to be associated with it, and rarely indeed, have we had a secession, and more rarely still has there been any sufficient reason for it.

The coming session promises to be one of more than average interest. Papers are being prepared, as announced by the Secretary, on several topics of great practical moment, the presentation and discussion of which cannot fail to exert a quickening influence upon all who hear them. It is to be hoped that while, as a general rule, all will be “swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath,” some of our *silent* brethren will remove the seal that has lain so long upon their lips, and give us the benefit of some of their thoughts whose *depth*, like that of still-running water, is doubtless proportionate to their stillness. If there are some who appear to monopolize the talking, the blame lies with those who allow them to do so. The evil exists more or less in all deliberative assemblies, and can be regulated only by every man