

contented themselves with superficial views of the doctrines of faith, and with the world's opinion of the laws of morality. Even among earnest men this was greatly felt. The world went so fast that, clergy and laity, they had too little time for prayer and meditation. There was neither time nor taste for interior life. The tear-stained book of private prayers of Lancelot Andrews—the dying meditation of Richard Hooker on “the number and nature of angels, and their blessed obedience and order, without which peace could not be in heaven”—were almost as unreal to this age as the rapturous communings of Ignatius in the cave of Manresa, or the mysterious exhibitions of Divine love which visited Francis of Assisi on the mountain of Alvernia. As some cure for this, let them lay deep within each of their hearts the basis of their work in the *vit a purgativa*. Neither let them overlook the danger which accrued to the soul from the absence of a definite battle with some temptation or propensity. They must possess their souls with the fact not only that temptation in some sort or form was the condition of their warfare as Christians, and that if they came to serve the Lord they must prepare their souls for it; but that in the predestination of God there was a certain definite combat on which they, one by one, must enter. There could be little of the interior life unless they set themselves to control their passions.”

UNION PRAYER MEETING.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Moderators of Synods, a public meeting of the Presbyterian Congregations of Halifax was held in St. Matthew's Church, on Sabbath afternoon, 30th ult., for united prayer for God's blessing upon the approaching meeting of Synods, with special reference to the subject of the Union of the Churches.

The spacious building was filled from the platform to the door with a vast assemblage of representatives from the six congregations in the city, and also the galleries were comfortably filled.

Rev. P. G. MCGREGOR, Moderator of the Sister Synod, presided, and conducted the opening exercises. He was

surrounded by the clergymen of the different Churches, who took part in the interesting proceedings, which began by singing the grand old 106th Psalm:

“All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice,” etc.

It was a matter for rejoicing when we remembered how, all through the difficult path in which the Churches have been led, her Leader had brought them thus far, when they could almost with certainty say their union was an accomplished fact. God had, in His own time and way, removed the barriers one by one, teaching them gradually but surely that his hand was guiding them, and that His glory alone would be the ultimate result of all their plans. The present meeting was the result of a suggestion in the *Record*, cheerfully responded to by the Moderators of the two Synods, and enthusiastically taken up by the people. He hoped a blessing would descend in answer to their petitions, which would knit them still more closely in the bonds of christian fellowship.

The meeting was then left open for any who felt disposed to make remarks, or engage in prayer, when

Rev. G. M. GRANT rose and briefly addressed the meeting. He referred to the question of Union as it presented itself to them about five years ago; how it was mooted amid much trembling and weakness—how obstacle after obstacle seemed to vanish as they were approached, and how God's hand was plainly visible in preparing the way for the great event. We could not account for it in any other way than that God's people were constantly presenting the matter to Him in prayer, and to-day the church, as a body, is doing the same thing. He was much struck with the remark of an aged saint whom he had lately visited, who hopes soon to inhabit the land where there are no divisions, but perfect harmony reigns, that he had not ceased to remember it in his prayers, although unable to take part in public. This is the power that has moved God to accomplish so much. It is not argument, not eloquence, not