

on "The Internal Administration of Churches," which was requested for publication, promised, and subscribed for, and, we hope, will shortly appear. On each of these carefully prepared papers, an interesting debate, or rather conference, has taken place, too limited, however, for want of time. This year, Dr. Lillie is to present his views in the same form on the "Permanence of the Pastoral Relation." A great deal of good may be effected by this method of taking up different questions of common interest, and talking over them in our free, brotherly way. Without dreaming for a moment of imposing our views on the churches, without even passing a resolution, a great end is accomplished by the thorough ventilation of the several topics introduced. We shall doubtless continue this feature in our proceedings. A multitude of interesting and very practical subjects suggest themselves. Let me name a few,—“Pastoral Visiting,” “Church Finances—how and by whom best procured and administered,”—“Church Building—principles and methods,”—“Doctrinal Uniformity—how far necessary and attainable amongst us,”—“Creeds,” say, two Essays, by an advocate and an opponent,—“Ecclesiastical Councils,” do. do., and so on. *All* subjects it would not be advisable to discuss, but very many it is eminently desirable to go into thoroughly.

## RESOLUTIONS.

It has also been the custom of the Union from the beginning, to express its views in the form of *Resolutions* on great public questions, and in relation to public societies. It has borne an almost annual testimony against Ecclesiastical Endowments by the State, the compelled violation of the Sabbath in certain Government Departments and on Railways, the system of American Slavery, and silence in reference thereto in Christian churches and societies;—and in favour of Total Abstinence, and the Legal Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic. It is wise to put on record well-considered utterances of this nature; our own convictions are deepened by so doing, and our voice has an influence upon other churches and the world. No occasion but this presents itself, of exercising this moral power.

## OUR MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION.

But there is no purpose for which we are here united, of greater importance than our *Missionary work*. This Union discharges the functions of a Missionary Society, appointing the Committee and receiving their Report. It may be well to explain, in a few words, how this power came into our hands, for all may not be aware of the history and reasons of the arrangement. When the Colonial Missionary Society commenced its operations in Canada, in 1836-7, it was represented by an agent in each section of the Province, through whom all its business was transacted. In 1840, a Home Missionary Society was formed in Upper Canada, chiefly for assisting churches in the rural districts, the Colonial Society preferring the towns and cities. In 1846, a similar movement took place in Lower Canada. There were thus, in the entire Province, four distinct Missionary executives—two Agents and two Committees. In 1851, the agent for Upper Canada, having intimated his intention to resign, the Colonial Society requested the Union of that province to undertake, through a *Committee*, the management of its concerns in this section. The Union acceded to the request. The Canada West Home Mission had throughout been under their control, the Committee being chosen and the annual report received by them, and even, at one period, the several grants recommended by the Committee being submitted to the Union for their sanction. In 1851, accordingly, the Union appointed the *same parties*, with one or two exceptions, to act as the Committee for the Colonial Missionary Society, and that of the “Canadian Missionary Society in connection with the Congregational Union of Canada West.” This was the germ of the present system. Turning now to Lower Canada, we find, in 1852, both the Union and Missionary Society, (the Colonial Society's Agency still existing) proposing a combination of both bodies with the corresponding organizations in Upper Canada, the proposal including the appointment by the Union, of one common Missionary Committee, for the whole of the missionary work throughout the Province. This plan, emanating from the Union and Missionary Society of Lower Canada, was brought forward with the hearty consent of the delegate from the Colonial Missionary Society, Rev. J. C. Gallaway,