

revealed as an object of faith and hope, or that can be fairly deduced from the sacred page, is the object for which we should contend." The great doctrines held by reformed and evangelical churches were here referred to, particularly those bearing upon the person and work of Jesus Christ, and the operations of the Holy Spirit, showing the unity existing between Congregational churches and others; but the preacher also insisted upon the Scriptural character of other truths, which he maintained ought earnestly to be contended for by ministers and people. He then mentioned and amplified the following principles:—That Jesus Christ is the only lawgiver to the church universal, and to the several branches thereof: that the Holy Scriptures constitute the only rule and authority in the affairs of the churches of Christ; the select and spiritual character of churches; the entire completeness within itself, for its own government, fellowship and edification, of each society of christians commonly assembling together in the same place for the observance of Divine appointments; and, the voluntary principle. Reference was made to the worship and teaching of our churches—to certain regulations of discipline—to our denominational history—and to the commemoration of the bi-centenary of Nonconformity, so as to render the discourse timely and appropriate.

After amplifying the manner in which this contest should be carried on, with suitable appeals throughout, the preacher noticed briefly the *motives* that should prompt us thus to engage in this contest, among which he specially noted the Divine sanction of the truths enumerated, and their practical design and tendency; religious consistency, and the influence of example; and, the results that may be anticipated by pursuing this course. Several appropriate quotations, from Dr. Hamilton, Algernon Wells, John Angell James, and Dr. J. P. Thompson of New York, were interspersed, and the sermon closed with a few inquiries to *those unconnected with a christian church*.

At the close of the service, when the Union remained in session for a short season, a vote of thanks was unanimously presented to the preacher for his "able and timely discourse." The Temporary Committee also reported at the same time.

#### MORNING PRAYER MEETINGS.

As in former years, the hour for devotional exercises at the commencement of each day's business, proved truly a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. These meetings form one of the brightest spots in the reminiscences of the Union. Subjects are brought up in a direct manner, which secures the interest at once; details of the progress of God's work with individuals and in churches come with much greater power when mingled with prevailing, importunate prayer, than when stated in a mere business style; the grateful expressions before God of those who rejoice in answers to former supplications, all tend to deepen the true spirit of worship. These meetings were presided over by Dr. Lillie, W. Clarke, H. Wilson, J. T. Byrne, and A. McGill, on the successive mornings of the session of the Union. While several important topics were placed in a prominent position, that of the young in general, and the children of *ministers*, deacons and members in particular, occupied most attention. During this year as well as last, several of the brethren have reason for special thankfulness to God for the conversion