

to that of liberty. With the most thorough freedom of the individual church, or pastor, we may here secure very cordial association. We keep up mutual acquaintance with old friends sundered perhaps by several hundred miles; and we have annually the opportunity of introducing new-comers to the whole household, so far as represented by the assembly. Nor is this personal re-union the only means of mutual acquaintance furnished at these meetings: our Statistical, Missionary, and College Reports, giving prominence to all matters of special interest throughout the body, enable each member to enter into sympathy with the characteristic experiences of the brotherhood, thereby producing an intelligent and fruitful communion in heart and understanding, which greatly promotes our compactness and efficiency. There is need of special effort to cultivate intimacy and hearty brotherly fellowship, now that our meetings are so large, and new materials are every year becoming incorporated. This is a matter for which every brother present has somewhat of responsibility. Let every opportunity be improved for the cordial recognition of brethren. Business must be dispatched; but there are intervals and opportunities enough, if rightly improved, for each member to exchange a few words with *every stranger*. As for old friends, it is needless to call for an effort to keep up acquaintance with them, for such is the force of sympathy and association, that the only effort requisite is against allowing old friends to monopolize our spare moments. The devotional seasons, which of late years have been invested with increasing interest, should be characterised by as much of freedom and spontaneity as is compatible with order. Let us make much of the morning hour of prayer. Committees should not absent themselves from these hallowed seasons. Above all, let us strive to resist the tendency at such gatherings to neglect secret prayer. All religious emotions kindled by public services, in a heart that has restrained secret prayer, will soon be extinguished.

Besides the home bonds that our "Union" cherishes, it affords a delightful medium of occasional communication with other circles of churches of the same faith and order in other lands. Every year we welcome with much pleasure the Delegates from Congregational Associations in the neighbouring Republic. We have reason to suppose that our American brethren will be fairly represented this year. But the report of our delegates to the "Congregational Union of England and Wales," will impart peculiar interest to our meeting. British Missionaries have repeatedly visited their brethren across the sea, and borne our salutations with them. But this is the first truly *Canadian* delegation that has visited Britain. Our brethren, Rev. Messrs. Clarke and Marling, will have *new impressions* of the English brotherhood to communicate. These must be drawn forth, without restriction of time; for nothing will be more refreshing and interesting. They will find their brethren here in a receptive mood. We hope also to have a letter from Dr. Wilkes, reporting his interview with the "Congregational Union of England and Wales," meeting in London during the present week. These brethren will have an inspiring account to give of the *Bi-centenary Commemoration* of the *Non-conformists* of 1662, upon which the British Churches are being greatly aroused. It is intended that carefully prepared papers, upon this interesting subject, shall be presented to the Canadian Union. On this theme we cannot here dwell. The best preparation for entering into this