

THE HARBINGER,

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF GENTLEMEN.

In malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.—*St. Paul.*

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CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

(From the *Liverpool Times*.)

The adjourned meetings of the Twelfth Annual Assembly of this important association, which were held in London in May, commenced in this town on Tuesday evening last, and were numerously attended.

The Rev. Richard Winter Hamilton, of Leeds, preached the introductory sermon on that evening, in Crescent Chapel. The subject was, the Invercommunity of Churches, and was designed to bring out the advantages which may reasonably be anticipated from the Union, when the great principles upon which it is founded shall be better understood and more generally acted upon. The marked attention which was paid by a large and respectable audience must have been very gratifying to the preacher, who acquitted himself with his usual eloquence and power.

On the two following days meetings of the committee, delegates, and visitors, were held in the Lecture-room of Great George-street Chapel, under the able presidency of the Rev. Dr. Leifehlid, of London. At both of these meetings, subjects of the highest importance to the Associated Churches were discussed, and plans of operation determined upon, which involve the present condition of our home population; their destitution but for the labours of the Home Missionary Society connected with the union; of the pure gospel of the word of God; the spread of evangelical truth in Ireland; and the spiritual necessities of the Colonial dependencies of Great Britain, which have as yet received a far too limited measure of the attention of British philanthropists.

The growing confidence which is felt in the union, and the importance which is attached to its proceedings at the present crisis, brought together a large number of ministers and others, many of them from a great distance. Upwards of one hundred of the former, and about an equal number of laymen attended the meetings for business each day, which commenced at nine o'clock in the morning, and continued until about three in the afternoon, when refreshment was provided by the hospitality of the Liverpool churches in the adjoining school-house.

Among the ministers present were the three secretaries of the union—the Rev. Algernon Wells, the Rev. John Blackburne, and the Rev. William Stern Palmer. The other London ministers present were the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, Rev. Dr. Fletcher, Rev. Dr. Matheson, Rev. Thomas Binney, Rev. Thomas James, and Rev. George Smith. From the country—the Rev. John Angell James, of Birmingham; Rev. Dr. Elliott, of Nottingham; Rev. Richard Elliott, of Devizes; the Rev. Richard Fletcher, and the Rev. Dr. Halley, of Manchester; our esteemed townsmen, Dr. Raffles, and the Rev. John Kelly, &c. &c.

The principle subject which engaged the attention of the meeting on the first day, was a statement of the principles of Congregational Churches, which had been drawn up with great care by the Rev. A. Wells, and which, after the corrections determined upon by the meeting shall have been made, is intended for extensive circulation in the different congregations throughout the United Kingdom. On the second day, a long and animated conversation took place on a proposal for a comprehensive union of all denominations of Christians, which are agreed upon the leading doctrines of the word of God. The proposal, we understand, originated with the Rev. J. A. James, and is in perfect harmony with the spirit of that gifted and excellent man. Although no steps were determined upon by the meeting with a view to bring the subject under the notice of the churches, yet its desirableness was acknowledged by all. Doubtless, a subject of such vast importance will not be suffered to sleep, but will be brought under consideration at a future meeting of the union, and may lead to the most pleasing results.

On the evening of each of these days, a public meeting was held in great George-street Chapel, Sir John Bickerton Williams in the chair. We never remember to have attended a meeting in which a deeper interest appeared to be excited than in that of Wednesday. The powerful and luminous exposition of the principles of the Congregational Churches, and of their duties at the present important period, which was given by the different speakers, will be long remembered. The meeting of Thursday evening was little, if at all, inferior either in interest or importance to the previous one; while the papers which were read and the addresses delivered