

favourable to the abolition of capital punishment:—"For my own part I do not doubt for a moment either the right of a community to inflict the punishment of death, or the expediency of exercising that right in certain states of society. But when I turn from that abstract right and that abstract expediency to our own state of society—when I consider how difficult it is for any judge to separate the case which requires inflexible justice from that which admits the force of mitigating circumstances—how invidious the task of the Secretary of State in dispensing the mercy of the Crown—how critical the comments made by the public—how soon the object of general horror becomes the theme of sympathy and pity—how narrow and how limited the examples given by this condign and awful punishment—how brutal the scene of the execution—I come to the conclusion that nothing would be lost to justice, nothing lost in the preservation of innocent life, if the punishment of death were altogether abolished. In that case a sentence of a long term of separate confinement, followed by another long term of hard labour and hard fare, would cease to be considered as an extension of mercy. If the sentence of the judge were to that effect there would scarcely ever be a petition for remission of punishment in cases of murder, sent to the Home Office. The guilty, unpitied, would have time and opportunity to turn repentant to the Throne of Mercy."

Official.

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF CANADA

Will assemble, in annual session, in Bond Street Congregational Church, Toronto, C.W., on Wednesday, the 7th of June, 1865, at 4 P.M. (instead of Thursday the 8th, for reasons already made known).

Arrangements are being made with the several Railway Companies with regard to the travelling fares of ministers and delegates attending the meeting. The *Grand Trunk Railway Company* will, as on previous occasions, grant return tickets at one fare for the double journey, on presenting of a certificate, signed by the Secretary of the Union, stating their intention to attend its meetings. Brethren intending to be present, both lay and ministerial, will therefore please to communicate the fact to me, so that certificates may be forwarded in due time.

The arrangements with the other railway companies are not yet completed, but full particulars will be sent in a circular with the annual blank form for statistics.

The Committee, consisting of the Chairman and Secretary of the Union, and the Rev. F. H. Marling, appointed to arrange for the public meetings of the Union, have met and resolved:—

1. To accept Dr. Wilkes' suggestion with respect to change of *Sabbath morning preacher*, and to ask the Rev. Dr. G. Smith, delegate of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, to take that appointment; and the Rev. J. L. Poore, Secretary of the Colonial Missionary Society, to preach in the evening.

2. That Thursday evening be devoted to the reception of delegates from corresponding bodies in England, the United States, and the Lower Provinces—the Rev. Dr. Lillie to respond.

3. That a Missionary Meeting be held on Friday evening, at which Dr. Wilkes shall present an abstract of the Report, and Revs. K. M. Fenwick, J. L. Poore, and W. H. Allworth address the meeting, in the order named.