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THE WORLD'S PRAYER MEETING.

Our American brethren have always been noted for their large ideas, as well as for their enterprise and liberality in carrying them out; and among the latest born of their noble conceptions is that of a National Prayer-meeting. Conventions for political, scientific and missionary purposes are, of course, no novelty, either to them or to ourselves, but a National Congress for Prayer, of christian men and women, from all parts of the great Republic, without distinction of creed or sect, such as was recently held in the City of New York, is a conception that does credit alike to the zeal and the devotional spirit of those who originated and sustained it.

The National Prayer Meeting, however, was only the complement of the State Prayer Meeting, which is fast becoming one of the "institutions" of the country, and is one which we should be glad to see introduced into Canada. Each religious denomination among us has its annual assembly for its own denominational purposes, and these are doubtless greatly promotive of the spiritual life, as well as of the subordinate interests of the churches represented. But a gathering of christian men and women with no *ism* to serve, and with the sole object before them of prayer and conference for the advancement of the kingdom of God, could hardly fail, if properly conducted, of being productive of the happiest results.

The agreement of universal Christendom, however, to spend the first week in January in simultaneous supplication for specified objects, as has now been done for a number of years past, affords to each one of us the opportunity of joining in a grander gathering still—a WORLD'S PRAYER MEETING—in which are to be found, as truly as in the Conferences of the Evangelical Alliance which projected it, representatives of almost every nation under heaven, each employing his own tongue wherein he was born, but all speaking the "one language" of praise and prayer. Such a gathering is as properly a *meeting* for prayer as if we could look into each other's eyes, and hear the swell of the unnumbered voices that ascend together, with one accord, to the throne of mercy; for it is no less true than poetical, that