

TEA MEETING AT GUELPH.

This was held on the ensuing evening (Thursday 7th), in the E. U. Chapel. The Rev. James Howie, pastor of the church, presided and the platform was filled by the Revds. H. Melville, G. Anderson, G. Plowman, and A. McPhee.

The Rev. H. Melville spoke on

THE GIFTS OF GOD.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,—The subject upon which I am to make a few remarks this evening is so extensive that I feel at a loss where to begin or where to end.

The apostle James says, "Do not err, my beloved brethren, every good *gift* and every perfect *gift* is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Paul, the great apostle of the Gentiles, also tells us that "the *gifts* and calling of God are without repentance." Every one acquainted with the inspired volume knows that there were a number of gifts bestowed upon the apostles and primitive preachers of the Gospel peculiar to the first age of Christianity. They were good, and perfect, and precious gifts; but having served the important purpose for which they were bestowed they were soon withdrawn. I refer here to the gift of prophecy, the gift of healing, the gift of miracles, the gift of tongues, which have long since ceased in the church. We have not received any of the gifts to which reference has just been made, though we believe that both the church and the world at the present day reap the benefits which directly or indirectly have flowed from all the supernatural gifts which were bestowed in primitive times.

There are numberless *temporal gifts* which come to us every day from the hand and heart of our heavenly Father. "The Lord is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works." "He openeth his hand liberally and supplieth the wants of every thing that liveth." Our very existence is a gift from God. What have we that we did not receive from him? All the members of our bodies, all the faculties of our minds, all the means and sources of enjoying life, are his gifts. Health, strength, soundness of mind, rain from heaven and fruitful seasons; in one word, all the temporal blessings which we enjoy; all our personal, domestic, relative and social comforts and enjoyments, are the gifts of God.

But I wish to call your attention for a little to a few of the *spiritual gifts* which God has bestowed, and which it is the duty and the privilege of all to enjoy.