

presence of the several American delegates, and specially of the Rev. Dr. Beecher, who rendered us such ample and valuable service, in various ways, conspired with what we have already named to make the meeting one of the most pleasurable and effective we have ever attended.

The sessions of the Union were held in Zion Church, of which the Rev. J. G. Manly is pastor, where the annual sermon was preached on Wednesday Evening, June 8th, by the Rev. Dr. Wilkes, of Montreal, from the words of our Lord, (John xiv. 28), "If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said I go unto the Father, for my Father is greater than I."

The theme was the duty and pleasure of loving sympathy with Christ. The sympathy of Christ with his people is a fact, full of joy and sweetness to them. Paul frequently refers to it. He is "a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." But in our text, another fact chiefly presents itself. Christ claims *our* sympathy in the great ends of his ministry and death. We must not spend our strength on reforms, and what we call "practical" matters, but must find our "upper and nether springs" in loving and lofty sympathy with the Lord Jesus. He speaks of his going to the Father as the ending of a series of trials and agonies; and he looks forward, down through all the ages, to "the joy set before Him," that rolls like an endless river, boundless, and forever. He came in lowly guise, born of a virgin; and in lowliness of station "grew in stature, in favour with God and man." Then, after waiting patiently for the time to come, he went forth with delight to His great work. His countenance beamed with heavenly light as He "went about doing good." He never wrought a miracle without a thrill of pleasure. But He was maligned on every hand; "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." At last, passing over the brook Kedron, he enters into the garden, and undergoes His wondrous agony. He takes three disciples with Him: He must have sympathy! Then, stroke after stroke follows fast,—the arrest, the trial, the mockings and scourgings, the Cross; all for us! and grace, in bearing away our sins through His blood, begets in us a hatred of them, and we rejoice in the triumphs of our risen Lord. His resurrection vindicated his power over the grave, and gave us a pledge of His second coming, when He shall place His foot on the neck of the last enemy. The disciples on Olivet, when he ascended, and the general Assembly and Church of the First-born, with the Cherubim and Seraphim before the throne, all rejoiced together in glad sympathy with Him, when the "Everlasting doors" were "lifted up," and He entered into His glory. Such sympathy shall we enjoy with Him forever! Now, if we would follow Christ closely, we must *cultivate* this sympathy! If we have this, *nothing* will seem too great to do for Him. Nothing so *greatens* and dignifies human nature as this sympathy with the plans and purposes of the Mighty God!

"If ye loved me ye would rejoice,"—what mighty interests hang upon that "*if!*" Many *profess* that they love Him; but are they in hearty sympathy with Him? Let us each ask, do *my* tenderest, profoundest sympathies go out toward the Lord Jesus Christ, His work, His cause, His people? If not, oh, listen to the voice that invites you to approach him to night, "Come unto me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Let all pray for this loving, holy sympathy,