

tween Christ and a member of his church were to cease, that member would instantly become paralyzed or die. We have life only in our Head. If in the natural body the communication, though not stopped, becomes imperfect, nutrition and development are immediately impeded, and the vigour of health gives place to weakness and disease. The same is true concerning the church: for all the spiritual nourishment which the mystical body receives is as directly through its vital union with the Saviour, as the nourishment of the natural body is through its living connection with the brain. The feeble Christian is he who does not abide in Christ.

Another important point. The head unites the members with one another. The hand and the wrist are next door neighbours, but, near as they are, it is only through the head that they sympathize. Were the nerves separated they would have just as much sympathy as two corpses laid in the same room. In like manner one hand holds fellowship with the other at the opposite side of the body; and by their relations with the head there is fellowship between all the members however remote from each other they may be, and however different the purposes they serve. Such also is the union of "the members of Christ." It is not mere neighbourhood that unites the nearest of them. Men may live next door to each other—especially in a large town or city—and know nothing whatever of each other's heart and life; they may be as indifferent to each other as the most absolute strangers. But believers are all "one in Christ," and by virtue of their union with him there is fellowship both between them that are far off and them that are near.

Let us notice one other point. We have said that the head nourishes; and, it is worthy of remark, that every part of our natural body is being continually added to—while in health. The daily waste is made up by the addition of fresh particles. The food we take is assimilated, and becomes part of ourselves: its different elements are carried into the blood, and this "stream of life" lands and deposits each cargo of supplies at the wharves along the shore. The very hub at the root of the

hair is fed, and without that nourishment it would not grow. "Now these supplies could not be furnished unless the head were united to the members; but it is by each member of the body receiving its supply, and doing its work, that the body thrives.

The supply is received in order that the work may be done; and as the work could not be done except the supply were received, so neither will the supply be given if the work be not done. All parts have not indeed the same office in the natural body, but each has its own allotted function, and the body will be healthy or not in proportion as each part does, or fails to do, its own work. So it is in Christ's body—the church. "The whole body," says the Apostle, "fitly joined together, and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body." Every member has its own place in the body, and its own work in that place. When God endues any individual with the *graces* of the Spirit, it is not for his good only, but also for the well being of the body to which he belongs. And when he bestows the *gifts* of the Spirit it is not for the private uses of the recipient merely, but rather to serve as so many offices of love, and so many opportunities of profiting the church of Christ. The well-being of "the body" largely depends upon the consecration and fidelity of the members, in the cultivation and employment of their gifts and graces; and these, again, will flourish and abound as a close and living union is maintained with him who is our Head. The relation of each believer, therefore, to Christ and His church is one of great privilege, but of correspondingly great responsibility.

#### II. CHAPEL FOR BARRIE.

The Baptist church in the important and thriving town of Barrie is one of the youngest, as well as one of the most zealous, enterprising, and united in our Denomination. Very few churches, in so short a time, have been blessed with such rapid and solid growth in membership and influence.

It is not yet two years since the Toronto Association, at its annual meeting in

Orillia, bemoaning the desolation existing in the northern section of its limits, passed the following resolution:

"That the Association respectfully recommend to the Baptist Missionary Convention of Ontario to send a suitable man to work principally in Barrie, entirely independent of Baptist influence there, and to support him liberally for twelve months, and we pledge ourselves to give our active sympathy and pecuniary support to this cause."

We believe that never did brethren more earnestly plead with God for a blessing than on the occasion of the adoption of that resolution. A committee was appointed to look after the matter, who never lost sight of their responsibility; and in due time, with the Divine blessing and the liberal aid of the Convention, one who seemed eminently qualified for the field was found in the person of Rev. H. F. Griffin. Having accepted the appointment, he at once removed his family from Port Burwell to Barrie, and threw himself soul and body into the work of resuscitating the Baptist interest there. Gathering about him the few Baptists who exhibited any signs of spiritual life at all, they set to work, looking to the great Head of the Church for strength to toil, and courage to endure in the task that lay before them. A small but convenient hall was rented and furnished, with the assistance of kind friends. Lord's day congregations, which at first numbered scarcely more than a dozen, rapidly increased to seventy or eighty; and the little prayer-meeting of three persons soon grew to eight times that number. On the 22nd of February 1877, the brethren united together as a church of Christ, and the same day were publicly recognized as a sister Baptist church by a Council of brethren from most of the churches of the Toronto Association. From that day the progress of the Barrie Baptist church has been most marked; and it has altogether outgrown the accommodation furnished by the little Orange Hall.

There are, we believe, no wealthy men in the Barrie church; and yet its members have exhibited a liberality and self-denial both for the support of the gospel at home, and on behalf of outside work in connection with the Convention, that ought to shame many older and more wealthy churches. When a special appeal was made in aid of the Convention a year ago that church gave at the rate of