

In the state of hopeful progress to which the work of Union seems now to be coming, a great deal more ought to be done than the meetings of the Joint-Committees once or twice a year. How easily do the churches satisfy themselves with slow movement in such a cause! True, there is no small wisdom in the proverb, "*festina lente*," "hasten slowly;" but still it should be *hasten*, the measure of the *slowly* depending on intervening circumstances.

Union should have a place in our personal and social prayers. It will not go right, or fast, without prayer, which is the wonderful instrument for bringing down that Divine influence on human hearts that, once really felt and travelling through them, leads to proper action. If the Saviour, before he suffered for the redemption of his people, prayed that they might appear to the world as one, even as He and the Father are one; how should all who claim to be his, pray and strive that this his great desire may, so far as they are concerned, be fulfilled as much as possible. There should be prayer for Union in the pulpits, and in the week-day gatherings for prayer,—it is to be lamented they are so few, and these but very thinly attended. And why should there not be special calls and invitations to those belonging to adjacent congregations in both Churches, to come together for friendly conferences and united supplication, in a matter so deeply interesting to them all; and for getting up representations to the Synods which are to meet in the beginning of the summer, urging them to bring the Union to an early and happy issue.

Ministers convenient to each other in the respective Churches, should freely interchange services in the pulpits, and at the Lord's table. In reference to the latter, where could the fire of Christian brotherly love, in their own hearts and the hearts of the people, be better fanned, than while commemorating together the redeeming love of Him who died for them, that he might purchase them unto himself as his peculiar people, and bring them to his Father's home of many many mansions, one countless blessed family forever?

Winter is now come—snow roads will afford easy communication—there is always more leisure at this season than the others—Providence, by the depressing hand which it has laid upon secular business, seems to be increasing that leisure,—and how could a part of it be better spent than in holding meetings here and there over the land, promotive of Union? And might not this be one likely way of turning off God's just displeasure against us as a nation, and as Christian communities for our sins?

It was by such means as have now been hinted at, that important Unions were realized in Scotland, land of religious zeal and energy; and that precious fruits have followed. Would that the Christian spirit which is still characteristic of so many of her population, were transfused into the people of our Canadian congregations, too supine in religion,—too intent upon earthly things,—too cumbered and careful about these things,—while the one thing which is needful is greatly put aside.

Ministers in Presbyterian churches in Canada, much will depend upon you, as to the people laying hold of such suggestions as these. If you in good earnest stir them up, it will be done, at any rate to some extent. By your prayers and your counsels, seek to produce a right desire for Union among your people; guide and encourage it; and perhaps, before the close of 1858, Canada may have the honour of exemplifying a Union that shall have no small influence in bringing about another and a greater one east of our Atlantic. And then the tie binding together the mother country yonder, and her daughter here, shall be more than double; and our common Presbyterianism may possess a strength which, under God, shall do great things for extending in this land Christ's pure and simple Gospel, and its plain, scriptural worship—devotion and sound knowledge going together,—and by the Divine blessing true godliness and right morality distinguishing those who are sincere, in professing our Bible-drawn creed.