

when, in the midst of seeming universal commotion, the chairman's stertorian voice (if he is so blessed) is heard,—“Hear the Chairman of the Business Committee.” The sub-Chairman reads the resolution, timidly it may be, and heard imperfectly, if at all, by one-third of the assembly. Then follows the constitutional question “What shall be done with the resolution?” A momentary silence is likely to follow this enquiry, seldom however, more than momentary, for some young, hearty, fearless brother, who thinks he has the subject at his finger-ends, proposes that the resolution be then and there adopted. He says but little on the principle or subject involved, but he thinks it good and correct, he has much pleasure in supporting it, and the Union cannot do better than adopt it forthwith, and—proceed to other business! A lengthy and tedious discussion, it may be, ensues, as to the propriety of an immediate consideration of the subject, in which half-a-dozen ardent or dull brethren, as the case may be, take part, whose conflicting opinions are at last disposed of by the Chairman declaring authoritatively, that the discussion had better stop there, as this Society or that deputation must now be heard. The “resolution,” meanwhile, has to be vigilantly watched by its foster-father, and rescued from oblivion, or reserved for a more convenient season. Then the proper business of the assembly is resumed.

But many experienced and devoted men attend year after year, and their voice is never heard in speech. It may be that the esteemed pastor from Quebec, travels to Hamilton or Brantford, and returns, without once addressing the meeting; or, the worthy Missionary Pastor from Manilla goes to Kingston or Montreal, without his voice being raised in speech or sermon.

Now, what with this circumstance and that, and the high-pressure resting all the while on the officials of the various Societies clustering around the Union, who may be presumed to be selected from the men of mark in the body, rendering it all but impossible for them to take part in the public discussions, a candid review of any one of these annual gatherings might lead to the conviction that a precious opportunity, which, but for these influences might have yielded much intellectual and spiritual enjoyment and profit to all, has been sacrificed, to a large extent, to technicalities and questions of order.

Could not a remedy be found for this unsatisfactory state of things? Is it not possible so to arrange matters, that the most able and experienced men in the body shall be heard on these “high days?” A larger attendance at the meetings might be secured; members from other churches might attend, as they were accustomed to do in former years, while there would be ground to hope that lasting good would follow. The distinctive principles of the body, and the adaptation of its policy to mould into a healthy vigorous Christian form, the peculiar phase of social life being developed now in this Canada of ours, could then be more clearly manifested, and with profit to the Commonwealth.

ONTARIO.

VISITORS AT THE CAPITAL.

DEAR EDITOR,—Allow me, through your columns, to speak a word to the *Pastors* of our Churches, and any others whom the matter may concern. Many strangers from all parts of the Provinces of British North America congregate at this capital during the Session of our Dominion Parliament; whose associations, when at home, are more or less with our denomination.