

from our sun, intenser fervour of love and zeal. The element of periodicity is inseparable from our nature.

Brethren will remember the special themes which are to engage our attention. Two papers are to be presented on "The Christian Training of the Young." Irrespective of the appointed Essayists, whose thoughts have for years been at work on this subject, let the minds of all the ministers and delegates be exercised on this, which, in diverse aspects, is one of the most agitated questions of our times, and prepare to give it a vigorous discussion. Another most important topic to be presented is "The Intercommunion of Independent Churches ;--the advantages, methods, and conditions of such fellowship." This theme may be so unfolded as to present many practical excellencies of our Polity—to promote greatly the unity, and efficiency of our churches. It is worthy of the best thoughts we can bring to bear upon it. The appointed essayist will undoubtedly do well his part ; but on us will depend the proper improvement of the appointment. May the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind animate all our words and actions !

THE POET IN PERPLEXITY.

"You will believe me what I believe myself—mad !" said Lord Byron, "when I tell you that I seem to have two states of existence—one purely contemplative, during which the crimes, faults, and follies of mankind are laid open to my view—my own forming a prominent object in the picture—and the other active, when I play my part in the drama of life, as if impelled by some power, over which I have no control, though the consciousness of doing wrong remains. It is as though I had the faculty of discovering error without the power of avoiding it. How do you account for this ?"

"I attribute it," remarked his friend, "to mental hypochondria, produced by excess of thinking."

Is this account true ? Does not the poet's perplexity rather show the utter impotence of modern philosophy and poetry to govern the corruption of our nature, and to destroy the dominion of sin.

It is instructive to contemplate a man who adorned the altar of vice with a fictitious glozy, and whose pages asserted "above all things, liberty," while yet himself the slave of pride, revenge, and lust ; and this while he felt his inconsistency, and wondered at the disagreement between the contemplative and the practical man.

The Bible explains the mental phenomena which puzzled Byron—in the depravity and deceitfulness of our nature, and provides a correcting power in the grace of God which brings every thought—the powers of reason and fancy, the emotions and feelings of the heart—into obedience to the laws of Christ. The man, whose conscience alone struggles with his sinful passions, will shut himself up in his gloomy cell, and shake his chains in despair, while the humble, feeble