

heart of the sacramental host of God's elect, struggling and yearning over dying sinners. Whence, this revival of the spirit of prayer—this faith in the power of prayer—these meetings so well attended, and so blessed? We are verily persuaded that many a lone watcher on the watch-towers of Israel, is expecting now that the time to favour Zion, yea, the set time is come. What is wanted for a revival is a powerful sense of the need of it—the faith that knows it can be—and the expectation that occupies itself with preparation for the coming of the gracious time. This will lead to much prayer—prayer somewhat like that of Dr. Backus, former President of Hamilton College. The doctor was upon his death-bed; the physician called upon him, and after approaching his bed-side and examining his symptoms with interest and solemnity, he left the room without speaking, but as he opened the door to go out, was observed to whisper something to the servant in attendance. "What did the physician say to you," said Dr. B. "He said, sir, that you cannot live to exceed half an hour." "Is it so," said the great and good man, "then take me out of my bed and place me upon my knees, let me spend the time in calling on God for the salvation of the world." This request was complied with, and his last breath was spent in praying for the salvation of his fellow-men: he died upon his knees. When an all-absorbing interest in the welfare of souls takes a strong hold on the Churches of Christ, earnest and persevering prayer will move the arm that upholds the universe. Is there not a beginning of this spirit? The Lord increase it an hundred fold!

The seed of the kingdom too is not scattered on soil trodden down by the excitement of strife and party spirit. The Union prayer meeting is an institution of our day. The war-steed does not prance furiously amid the enclosures of gospel churches. The sower goeth forth to sow in the calm serenity of peaceful times; and we expect that the seed shall spring up and bear fruit. A wide-spread feeling of brotherly sympathy is cherished, which is as the dew on Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountain of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore. These signs of the times lead us assuredly to gather, that the Lord calls his people to preach the gospel in these regions, in the expectation of a glorious and abundant harvest of souls. "Say not ye, there are four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

NOON PRAYER-MEETING IN TORONTO.

During the week of the world's union prayer meeting, a noon meeting was held daily in the Second Congregational Church, Toronto. It evidently met a general want, as Christians of all denominations at once came into it. It has been continued since from week to week, and is now designed to be a permanent appointment. In this city, as elsewhere, there is a call for a service at which all evangelical believers, whether residents or wayfarers, may meet together on common ground. Numerous requests for prayer have been sent in, to some of which, already, answers have been vouchsafed! It has been a hallowed hour, refreshing to many hearts. Don't forget to drop in, reader, and take part, when you pass this way. Strangers are specially welcome.

F. H. M.