

We hail with joy the near approach of this festival of our Israel,—the meeting of the Congregational Union of Canada in the good city of Toronto,—and pray, that no root of bitterness springing up trouble us; that the season may be hallowed, by the continuance of brotherly love; by the unfolding and strengthening of the principles we fondly cherish; by the shout of victory in the camp, at the news of prosperity in the churches; by the tear of sympathy where trials have been borne; and by the holy resolution to imitate with stronger faith and warmer love the example of Him who went about doing good. Nor may the influence be circumscribed to the members of the body, but permeate the churches, and the families who are not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

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### THE UNION COLLECTION.

We hope that the needful measure of liberality will be shown in this matter; notwithstanding the money pressure, which we regret is so severely felt in many places at present. We wish this, because,

1st. It is a standing rule of the Union, that a collection for its funds shall be made annually in each Church on or near the Lord's day prior to the meeting.

2nd. It is a principle of the New Testament that the strong help the weak. This is a channel for the wealthy to help the messengers of the churches forward on their journey.

3rd. This liberality is requested, partly to save an appeal for an extra-collection, to defray debt contracted in the service of the churches, and for their benefit; namely, the bill for the trust deeds provided by the Union.

4th. It will save valuable time to the Union. Remember the discussion last year in Brantford.

5th. The feelings of Brethren will be spared the possibility of unpleasantness arising from a half filled exchequer.

6th. The objection to this liberality caused by the hard times, is rather an argument for it, since these hard times make it the harder for the Ministers and Delegates to bear the deficiency.

These are our reasons for commending to the head, the heart, and the pocket of every friend, the Union collection for this year.

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### GIFTS AND GRACES.

There is a propensity in the human mind, to overvalue that which is not of paramount importance in the estimation of our Heavenly Father. This propensity is always injurious.

It is frequently manifest in the regard we pay to worldly riches, pleasures, honours, and other objects of pursuit; and is very common in reference to the affairs and associations of the church of God: it thus extends, not merely to worldly things,—leaving us to esteem far beyond their value, trinsic differences in society—but biases our views of religious character and influence. Especially may it be seen in the undue value many are apt to attach to *gifts*, in forming their estimate of a fellow christian's character and influence, in the church of