who withdraws whilst iniquity is harboured in our midst. Difficulties, and difficulties of a serious nature, exist in many churches in connection with the Association. Sparks from the bottomless pit have been blown into a flame, and their withering and deadening influences have been and are still being felt in the denomination.

Scarcely a church is to be found where some member does not harbour iniquity in his heart against his brother, and yet his name stands on the Church book, and he is returned year after year to the Association as a member in good standing. It may be that some of the Messengers and Delegates who bear the letters and bring the statistics of their several churches think that other churches are in better standing than their own; yet we fear that we are not all thus ignorant, and that while we send a letter giving an account of the state of the church, we are not as honest as we should be in the sight of God. One great reason why so many remain unreconciled to their brethren, is the total neglect of the law of Christ. We are told "If thou hast aught against thy brother, tell him his fault between him and thee alone." How seldom is this done. But if a difficulty takes place, it is related, it may be, to a church member, told to a neighbour, the ungodly and the impenitent spread the news, and in a short time, we see how great a matter a little fire kindleth that might at first, by attending to the law of Christ, have been quenched by a few penitential tears. So long as we lean to our own understanding and disregard or treat with indifference or contempt the law of Zion's King, so long may we expect that the disapprobation of Heaven will rest upon us. Are there not many who have hardness against their brethren, who yet expect to ascend to glory and to God? Hear the Lord's language upon it, "except ye from your heart forgive every one his brother, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you; but if ye forgive men their trespasses even so will your heavenly Father forgive yours." If there be those in the church who will not honour the law of Christ, who respect not the law nor the lawgiver, shall we allow such to remain as church members? I fear by such a course of conduct, we wink at their iniquity, and of necessity become partakers of their sin. Should we not beware lest we also being led away with the error of the wicked fall from our own steadfastness? Let us rather by pureness, by knowledge, by the Word of God, (that word which is profitable for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness,) endeavour to keep ourselves in the love of God, in the unity of the Spirit, and in the bonds of peace.