

without God's blessing. Unanimity, therefore, in the observance of this day of prayer is earnestly to be desired, inasmuch as to some extent a division of opinion exists as to the wisdom of the resolutions of last annual meeting regarding the removal from Toronto. We publish in the "News of the Churches" department of this number a series of resolutions passed by the subscribers to the College in Guelph. It appears to us right to give the requested publicity to the opinions held by these respected brethren; we however feel, that the future welfare of the College demands that unanimity of action prevail among us as far as possible. Our churches, it seems to us, are too few and too weak to admit of anything but a hearty and constant co-operation with each other in sustaining the College.

SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP.

How striking the teaching of Jesus! Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." This was said almost in the presence of his mother, and his brethren. Did Jesus then disregard natural ties? Far from it. By him, that law which says, honour thy father and thy mother, was magnified. The tender sympathies of humanity were not crushed by the hand which restored to stricken hearts some whom death had snatched away. This care of his mother triumphed amid the agonies of the cross. "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." Enough is thus recorded to enshrine within the hallowed circle of christianity the home loves, and pure associations of men. There is, however, a higher, purer, nobler relationship, of which men are capable, than any that is material. It springs from connection with Jesus, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. *Brotherhood* is an idea in the very heart of religion. It is woven into the whole texture of truth. "Children of God"—"Brethren beloved"—"My little children"—"My son, in the faith"—"My brother, and sister, and mother"—such are some of the words that flow from the fountain of love. Nor do they merely float on the surface—they express the very nature of that religion that comes from the throne of God—for GOD IS LOVE. This *fraternity* has its basis in obedience to God. Doing the will of God from the heart shows that the soul has been born again. Every one that loveth him that begetteth loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments." Love to the brethren is an essential mark of belonging to the family of God. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

An ecclesiastical connection cannot form this relationship. Profession may place side by side persons who have no union of soul; their tastes and desires are wide as the poles asunder, unless they are one in Christ. A truth which plainly points out the nature of fellowship. Brotherhood flowing from the experience of the new birth links them together. Now, we hence infer, that the order of the house of God will be framed to correspond with this grand principle. Church systems may justly be tested by the provisions made in them to meet the fact of brotherhood. The discovery of