

done in the past through unorganized plans, and no doubt much will yet be done. But this fact furnishes no excuse why we should still neglect to unite our forces. Churches, acting singly, are powerful; acting together, they become irresistible. And it is only through united action that our greatest strength can possibly be reached.

We must acknowledge that hitherto there has been a great deficiency in co-operation in Christian labor. Considering our numbers and opportunities, we are compelled to say that very little has yet been accomplished. However faithfully individual Churches may work, they do it in so isolated and independent a way, that the full measure of their strength has never been attained. How seldom the strong assist the weak; and how unwilling we are to bear each other's burdens, and so "fulfil the law of Christ." How few watch over the best interests of the body, and suggest ways and means for the advancement of those pure doctrines and ordinances we prize so much; and how mean a proportion of our property is contributed to the support of our Institutions of Christian benevolence. In fact, many of these are either entirely or partially neglected by our Churches. The amounts raised for missionary and educational purposes, are far below what they ought to be; and it is often with the greatest difficulty that even these trifling sums are cast into the treasury. If we wish to do more efficient work for God, there is the greatest need that we double or even treble our contributions. In response to the necessity of our denominational life, our Fathers started on foot some of the most honored institutions of our body. Unanimity of sentiment and action to them was inseparable. They went up to their annual gatherings having for their object the interests of the denomination and the salvation of men, and with one accord they sought the divine blessing, and ceased not to labor to have their prayers answered until they were called to lay aside their armour. God let them live to see their labors abundantly owned and blessed by him. We are enjoying the benefits of their labor, and shall we stand aloof from these noble enterprises, and see them need for a lack of co-operation in our Christian activities. From the want of intelligent thorough concert, there is narrowness where there ought to be expansion, and weakness where there ought to be strength; the waste of means and labor, that ought to have produced a glorious reward. The very life of our denomination is our institutions, and these are far from what they ought to be. A more judicious use of our resources would place them upon a much grander scale. Some of our Churches that ought to give largely do almost nothing. This obvious difficulty cannot be chargeable to a lack of individual piety on the part of the Churches in the service of Christ. A more devoted, self-denying people, could scarcely be found than those included in the Baptist brotherhood. Neither is it on account of any lack of friendly fraternity, no people love each other better than Baptists. The great difficulty seems to be in the lack of such united action as shall secure the very best working ability.

It is evident that we possess all the required fellowship of doctrine, without an adequate fellowship of organized labor. For this, and no other cause, our Churches, scattered all over these Provinces, have not obtained the full force which, under God, they ought to sway. No people beneath the wide canopy have such a power of truth as Baptists. To secure proper means and measures, would make them conquerors of the world for Christ.

We are aware that so jealous are our Churches of their own independence, that to present any form, or suggest any plan of needed changes in our operations, and have them at once adopted, would be, we apprehend, literally impossible. Slowly, perhaps imperceptibly, the change may come. The tendency of our denomination appears to be towards a closer and more efficient unity. The prospective work of our missionary and educational enterprises may, if properly and wisely managed, do more than we now anticipate, in giving force and unity to our great denominational work. It may awaken our Churches, and make them feel anew the high responsibilities to which they have been called. May the Lord grant it for his own name sake.

We believe that there are within our Baptist faith and policy, the seeds of more glorious things than we have ever seen or felt. If so, let us who compose this Association, do all in our power to cause them to spring up and grow, so that we may see a rich and an abundant harvest.