

doing so will not cause division; if wrong, prohibit its use altogether. In the case of the Canada Presbyterian Church, a middle course has been attempted. A congregation from another body, in which an organ was employed, sought admission. The case was investigated, and the decision come to was, that that congregation should be received, and allowed to continue the use of the instrument. The Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church therefore declared that there was nothing wrong in the use of an organ, on the ground, among others, that it could not be made a term of communion. If not wrong, it is argued, why prohibit a unanimous congregation from employing one also in their Church? And this is a very natural enquiry. The evil, if evil it be, was allowed by the Synod in one case. Its use was sanctioned, and before a different decision could be come to, by which it could be declared, with any show of decency, a thing *malum in se*, it was necessary to order its removal from the Church in which it had been allowed to remain. This is the sum of that part of the argument, and it is difficult to see how it can be met. Our own Church provides that no organ can be forced upon a congregation, which does not wish to have it, but as little interference as possible, is the rule that has been followed. And this has had the best results. We believe that were proper pains taken to encourage congregational singing, and a proper leader obtained, no great need would be felt of other assistance. But there are many difficulties in the way, the last being the most formidable, as it is very difficult to obtain the services of a properly qualified leader, who is also a good teacher. In country places it is, except in the few cases in which the exception proves the rule, simply impossible. There is, on the other hand, scarcely a country congregation in which several ladies could not be found to lead with an instrument, which could be procured at a small cost. That this has been done in several country congregations may be seen from the Church Agent's report, which shows that twelve instruments are in use. Of these we know from other sources, only two are organs, the others being melodeons. St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, and St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, have these two. The first, which has been upwards of six months in use, is the one in Montreal. It is a magnificent instrument of great power, and it has effected a great improvement. The one in Toronto

has only recently been finished, and is spoken of by the local newspapers in high terms.

But the chief end and aim of congregational singing is the worship of God, truly, devoutly and sincerely, and when this is done from the heart the end is accomplished. Yet why should we be satisfied with the imperfect rendering of this praise? Because the rude notes of the untutored voice are acceptable to the Searcher of hearts, is that a reason why we should be slovenly and careless in coming into His presence? If we can do better why not try? Time was when the settler went to Church in his shirt sleeves, and paid no attention to outward respect for the house of God, but as education spread, and comforts sprung up around him, he learned to appear with his fellow worshippers differently arrayed. Time was, in many parts of the country still is, when the little rough log shanty was deemed amply sufficient for comfort, and the blackened stumps, and the slash fence of the little clearing everything that could be wanted for a view. The families lived happily, and with devout hearts lifted up their thanksgiving to God, the giver of every good and perfect gift. Are they less happy or less devout now, because the rude plenty of these days, the rough and unsightly clearings, the bare log hut, with its crevices plastered over or stuffed with moss to keep away the cold, and to whose door the crops came closely up, have given place to the trim meadow, the well appointed table, the handsome frame or brick house, surrounded by a fragrant flower garden, and clothed in summer with climbing plants, while inside may be seen and heard the piano and the sound of music? No one, we think, will contend that they are. And in this progress are the House of God and its service to be neglected? Because it was ordered that from the ignorance of the people and the scarcity of books the psalm was to be read out line by line, so that all might join, are we bound to continue this practice when knowledge is extended and books are cheap? "See now," said David, "I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth in curtains." Are we not bound to give Him the best we can? Whether our voices are led in Church by an organ, or by a precentor, or by a choir, the plain duty of each one is to shew forth His praise as well as he can. No one can dispute this, and the mere manner of accomplishing it is certainly a matter of minor importance, so