

AUTUMNAL UNITARIAN CONVENTION.

It will be seen by the notices inserted under the head of Intelligence, that the Autumnal Convention of Unitarians is to meet in this city during the present month. The presence of such a body will be a new thing in this community, and we cannot but hope that it will be of good service to the cause of Liberal Christianity. Other Churches have their periodical meetings of Synod, Presbytery, Conference, Society or Association, but the Unitarians, from their recent organization here, and from their smaller numbers, have hitherto been without any such help or sympathy. They have existed as a Congregation isolated and apart, and all that they have known of others holding a like faith with their own has come through reading about them. From what we know of the Unitarian Congregation of this city, we will venture to say, that all the members thereof who have had the privilege of being present at the meetings and discussions of any larger organized bodies of their brethren, might be almost reckoned upon our fingers. But it is very needful that we have some such experience of the interior working of a religious body if we would thoroughly understand its spirit and tendencies.

Among the Unitarians the Autumnal Convention is an institution of comparatively recent origin. It dates back only some twelve or thirteen years. It is entirely distinct from the usual Anniversary Meetings held in the spring. These are invariably held in the City of Boston, at the season of the general religious gatherings of Massachusetts. We need scarcely say that the proposed Convention has no authoritative character. And here it differs from the Synodical meeting of the Presbyterians, the Conference of the Methodists, the Convocation of the Episcopalians, and the Association of the Orthodox Congregationalists. Whether for good or ill, no such assembly among Liberal Christians can be authoritative. Liberal