

Most of us, whether in official positions in the Churches or not, are working "every man apart" in his own particular sphere. Our labours have a certain degree of monotony in them; a sense of solitariness is often felt; our minds and hearts grow contracted within the limits of our daily horizon. And thus, weariness, discouragement, and selfishness too, are apt to creep over us, or ever we are aware. How good is it to come together in this annual convocation; to see the faces of our brethren, to hear them speak, and to give them the right hand of fellowship; to learn that we are not alone in our labours, trials, or encouragements, but that "the same afflictions are accomplished in our brethren throughout the land;" to take sweet counsel together, and walk to the house of God in company! In our several meetings for prayer and conference, in hearing the Gospel preached, and in coming around the table of the Lord, we have sat together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; while in our private intercourse with each other, as "ointment and perfume rejoice the heart, so hath the sweetness of" each "man's friend by hearty counsel." We have reason to bless God, that these meetings have been occasions to which we could look forward with high hope, and look back with such grateful joy. Whenever we missed one, it has left a great blank in the year.

The churches which have been successively visited by our annual assembly, testify that they have been amply rewarded for all they have done in entertaining this body, in their better understanding of our movements, and their enjoyment of these services, as well as in private intercourse with their guests. Ought it no ever to be thus, my brethren? It would be a monstrous thing if over five score ministers and messengers of the churches came together and left no blessing behind them. Permit me, as standing now in the place where it is my privilege to minister, to urge this matter upon your attention here. I believe you will find in every house, those who will expect and wish you to speak to them of their own soul's salvation. They will be shocked and disappointed if you do not. Let me ask each brother to speak a word in due season wherever he is, and especially to "feed the lambs." I would that we of Toronto may always have to look back upon this meeting as a time when every one of us felt the claims of Christ upon himself brought home to his own conscience and heart, when many a sinner was led to decision, and every professor quickened in the Divine life. We have prayed that this blessed privilege might be vouchsafed to you.

STATISTICS AND NARRATIVES.

To most of us, and that increasingly, it seems a very valuable result of our organization that we come to "know our brethren's affairs, and how they do." The statistical returns which are obtained by secretarial importunity, and furnished with a growing readiness, punctuality and precision, that do the churches and their pastors honor, are already valuable, and will be more so in after years. Having read much that has been written concerning the difficulty of obtaining full and correct returns elsewhere, I feel that we may congratulate ourselves on the results of our own exertions here. The value of these returns is manifold. They gratify our brotherly interest in each other's welfare; they reveal to us what we all want to know,—the actual strength of the denomination; they supply a ready answer to the questions so often asked by visitors; they discover many a point of strength and weakness, in the individual churches, or the denomination at large, and by discovering, prepare the remedy of any evil; they provoke us to love and good works by every example of zeal and liberality; they are a valuable guide to our missionary committees; they show to the British churches the fruits of their missionary enterprise in this colony; and they may indirectly contribute, in no small degree, to that correct keeping of church records and accounts which is so essential to the harmony and purity of each fellowship. The summation and analysis of the statistical returns presented to us by the Secretary from year to year—omitted, I am sorry to see, from the last printed minutes—is a document of very great value.

But we have here an opportunity of hearing, not numerical statements only, but the filling up of that outline in personal narratives. There is no exercise in these meetings that has interested my own mind more than when each brother