

It is quite possible that had we been present at the recent discussions, and enjoyed the benefit of hearing the whole case presented, these difficulties might have been disposed of; but they will probably occur to others, as well as to ourselves, and it is better that they should be met at once, so that no hasty decision may be reached at the next Union Meeting. We need scarcely say that we shall be glad to have the case fairly argued in these pages by those who have thought out the new plan.

Perhaps a solution of the difficulty may be found in the Union's recognising membership in an Association as *prima facie* evidence of good standing, to be accepted unless cause to the contrary is shown, but reserving to itself a power of enquiry: and, in cases of offence, availing itself to the utmost of the superior knowledge of neighbouring brethren, while not refusing the aid of those whose very distance may ensure their being unaffected by local feelings, and being able therefore to form a more dispassionate judgment.

A WORD TO THE CHURCHES.

A correspondent says: "I am glad to have the news of the churches in Canada every month. My interest in their prosperity has rather increased than diminished. * * * I see that Mr. ——— has again gone to the States, and that others are likely to follow. It is not to the interest of the Canadian churches to allow such a course to be desirable."

It would be well for the churches to lay this thoughtful and just remark to heart. Cases will occur in which it is manifestly to the interest of both pastor and people that a change should take place, but for one such, there are many in which the severing of the pastoral tie is alike unwise and mischievous. In most cases, the cause is want of support, and this undoubtedly arises in many quarters, not from an inability to contribute a fair income on the part of the people, but from lack of consideration on the part of the leading and most comfortably circumstanced of the brethren. Some of them pay willingly two or three dollars a day to the foreman of their works, while they assist in contributing to a fund for the maintenance of their pastor, the aggregate of which does not reach a dollar and a quarter a day. Why this line of argument? Because the labourer is worthy of his hire; and the Lord hath ordained that they who preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

It is not to the interest of the churches to overlook this principle, and hope to prosper while disobeying it.

T. C. A.

SABBATH DESECRATION.

The Grand Trunk Railway saw fit last month to change the gauge of their track from Sarnia to Stratford, and from Stratford to Buffalo: employing for