

reflect on the work which might be done, even by the feeble and scattered churches of our Association, were these Union Societies properly organized and faithfully worked.

When however these Societies exist only in name. Where one seeks almost in vain for any influence which they exert on our contributions. When one searches over the Minutes of past Associations, or listens to the annual letters from the churches, and can discern but faint traces of any attention to Union Societies—then we must conclude that the notice given to them by our Associations is a mere formality. The nomination of a committee and the presentation of a report, may well be dispensed with. The churches cannot well give less without such formalities than they now do with them. These Union Societies have not failed on account of our poverty, or because of our peculiar avarice and hardness of heart. When agents for the Bible Union and similar societies go through the country, they find abundance of money and liberal hearts. It is a little singular that money is only wanting when our dearest interests are at stake, when funds are required for the support of superannuated ministers, the education of our own flesh and blood, and the evangelization of this comparatively destitute section of the province.

The Union Societies have failed because men will not take the trouble to keep them in working order, or give them that attention necessary to the working of any system. We suffer for want of a system, yet when one is presented to our notice we let it die a natural death. Many of the churches seem to think that they have discharged their duties when a hasty collection has been taken up, perhaps on the very Sunday preceding the meeting of the Association. Let such remember the exhortation of the Apostle. "Now concerning the collection for the Saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia even so do ye, upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him that there be no gathering when I come."

E. B. DEMILL, *Chairman.*