

THE

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LAST HINTS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETINGS.

FROM FIRST TO LAST.

We would strongly urge upon the members of the Union the duty of being present at the opening of the proceedings, and remaining to the close. We are well aware that it is difficult for men in business to spare the greater part of a week, and in cases of emergency must needs excuse their shorter stay. But the ministerial members of the body, it seems to us, should count this engagement as having "the right of way," not to be met by dropping in the second or third day and leaving on Saturday. It is but once a year that we all come together. Our denominational organisations need all to have their work deliberately gone over. There are topics of general interest that greatly need ventilation in brotherly conference. The annual meetings can be used with the greatest effect for spiritual quickening, and for the cultivation of that personal acquaintance and friendship on which so much of our pleasure in the work depends. But all these valuable ends are frustrated by the impatience we are deploring, and that lack of public spirit—in scripture phrase, "looking on the things of others"—from which it springs.

THE REPORTS.

We would respectfully suggest to our honoured Secretaries, that the value of the several "Canadian Congregational Reports" very greatly depends on the promptitude with which they are published. Nor do we see any good reason why they should not appear within a month of the Union Meeting. Some are ready by that time, but one laggard will delay the whole company.

Last year, the Indian Mission Report was added to the former "triple" edition; and we have now to suggest that the Provident Fund also publish its proceedings in the same form from year to year. It is a question with us, whether the frugality of its managers has not been exaggerated into parsimony. Perhaps one cause of the paucity of collections may be this extreme reserve.

Several of our ministers and others are in the habit of collecting these reports, and binding them in volumes every five years. From experience, we can say that in this form they are of great value for reference. It would add to the appearance of such collections, if all the reports were printed of uniform size and style,