

of one's past life. It is right to set apart a time for such retrospect. Our childhood, our youth, our riper years, or even our old age, afford much cause of sorrow and abasement. Have the things of God been first? What have we been living for? Set in order sins of omission and commission. Take the ten commandments; mark what is required, ponder what is forbidden. Our hope is not from the law. Moses smites us. The law is holy, while we are carnal, sold under sin. It is, however, from an apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ that true Christian humiliation flows. At the cross we lie lowest; there we see our sins. An unbelieving heart is frozen; the ice melts by the warmth of a Saviour's love—they shall look on Him whom they have pierced, and mourn, every family apart, and every individual apart. Sin, as portrayed in the sorrows of the Son of God, appears exceeding sinful. Wherefore we abhor ourselves, and repent in dust and ashes. Sadly are the garments of sackcloth worn; still, "blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." He takes us from the fearful pit, and from the miry clay. Lifted high on the Rock of Ages above every storm, eternal sunshine begins to settle on our heads. Hope has touched the soul—live, it cries. Night is chased away by the morning light. Such are the results of humiliation before God, while the influence of that abasement appears in consistency of life, for the humble men are the strong men.

Finally, feeling assured that a proud spirit interferes with the progress of the cause of Christ, and that there is no blessing descending on the land adequate to the means employed, every individual whose heart the Lord hath touched, should set his face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with confession of sin, an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit. "O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do. Defer not, for thine own sake, O my God; for thy city and thy people are called by thy name."

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#### UNITED PRAYER.

Invitations to observe a week of especial and united prayer, at the beginning of the year 1863, have we trust met with a cordial and general response in Canada. Former years have demonstrated the value of such calls. Many have felt the quickening power of continuing in prayer, while brethren of various churches have been brought together in closer bonds of brotherhood. May we not also feel that the united efforts made in several of our cities for the revival of the work of God, and even now graciously crowned with success, are closely allied to these special supplications. Abounding prayer will surely secure an abundant blessing.

A circular issued by the Evangelical Alliance says—

"The manifest blessings by which these seasons have been marked, render it imperative upon us to repeat them. Christians of every country and name are therefore affectionately recommended to set apart the eight days, January 4-11, inclusive, of the ensuing year, for simultaneous and earnest supplication with thanksgiving to Him who has commanded—"Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

The topics suggested for a prominent place in exhortations and intercessions are—