

monotony of wearisome days and nights may be broken by the kindly attentions of fellow disciples! How soothing in the chamber of sickness, the gracious words of piety, the music of devotion!

See how mutual affection prompts to study each others dispositions so as to avoid murmurings and disputations. No character is so perfect here as to be without a flaw; there are defects to be borne with, asperities to be softened, tempers to be subdued. Beautiful as likeness to Jesus is, the picture has spots, though on that account it should not be torn or thrown aside in contempt. When it is remembered how much grace is needed to subdue our own natural tendencies, charity makes room for others. This brotherly kindness should not degenerate, however, into indifference, either as to the opinions or conduct of our fellow disciples. Paul withstood Peter to the face, because he was to be blamed. Controversy may be necessary, we are to watch all the more the spirit in which we enter the field. In meetings of the church, it is of first consequence that opinion be stated in an affectionate manner, with deference to the views of others, and guarding against the assumption of the forms of debate, and the evil spirit of contention. To secure this it is a good rule to have the devotional element strong. What is attended to as a business matter, is nevertheless an affair connected with Christ's cause, and should be conducted in the spirit of dependence on the Head of the Church for wisdom and guidance. "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke."

We have thus given some views on a subject of great importance to the welfare of every church, and to the enjoyment by individuals of their connection with the people of God. Properly to discharge the duty, demands abounding grace. Unless spirituality of thought, feeling, word, action, prevails, there is little hope of securing peace, joy, love, from mutual watchfulness. Oneness in heart and aim is a grand characteristic of Christ's people, and a proof of his divine mission. The Saviour prayed for His disciples—"That they all may be one; as thou Father art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me."

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

The *sixteenth* Annual Session of the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Congregational Union, was held at Canning, Cornwallis, N. S., on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 14th September, 1863.

On Thursday, the 10th, at one o'clock, the Union opened with a devotional meeting, conducted by the Rev. J. R. Kean, pastor of the church in Canning; after which, on motion, Mr. James Woodrow, delegate from St. John, was appointed Minute Secretary.

The following ministers and delegates were present during the Session, viz.:

Rev. George Stirling, Rev. G. A. Rawson, Rev. James Howell, Rev. J. R. Kean, Rev. J. G. Sanderson, Rev. John Gray, Rev. R. Wilson, Wm. Edgar Jenkins, delegate from Yarmouth; Mr. S. Sykes and Henry A. Freeman, from Pleasant River; Hon. Freeman Tupper, and Mr. W. H. Freeman, from Milton; Mr. James Woodrow and Alexander Kerr, from Union Street Church, St. John; Mr. David Loomer and Mr. Samuel Lowden, from Cornwallis; Mr. H. P. Bridges, from Sheffield. Mr. Hiram Freeman was present as a personal member.