

TORONTO, Canada, 12th February, 1885.

To the Saints gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus at Montréal,

BELOVED BRETHREN,

The saints gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus in Toronto, now meeting for worship at Gerrard street and Lisgar street, * have to express to the Montréal Assembly their acceptance, in the unity of the body on earth, of their final decision of the 4th January last, rejecting Mr. F. W. Grant from the fellowship of the saints gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus at Montréal, as a creator of divisions in the Assembly by teaching and publishing the doctrine contained in a tract entitled "*Life in Christ and Sealing of the Spirit,*" and refusing—after admonition—to withdraw it.

We do this in the full belief, that in questions of discipline where no principle of evil is to be seen in the decision itself, we cannot set up our judgment against that of the Assembly of God in that matter which God has committed to their care. We judge this to be the pretension of competency in each of us to decide for himself independently of what God has instituted; to destroy the unity of the Body in its practical action in each local assembly as representing the whole body, through its Head the Lord Jesus; and to bring in, instead of the unity of Scripture, the one Head and one Body and one Spirit, a union merely of many heads, accepting a decision if they think fit to agree with it, or declining to do so if they think otherwise.

We feel that this principle of the unity of the Body, (and not union,) which led many of us out of the various systems, is now being again placed before us by the Head of the Church as a test, and a severe one in the way it now comes to us, to see if we are holding fast our profession in reality or not; and from the declension on all sides, it would seem this divine principle must soon pass away from us, as from the early church, unless in God's mercy and in the energy of the Spirit, He recall us to the truth that this unity, in its living working, coupled with a godly walk, has been and is the great secret of our conscious and distinctive

* The gathering at Yorkville having been broken up by the reading of the Montréal decision, a number declining to accept the action, and the owner of the room—a brother—stating that it would be occupied by those dissentients and in fellowship with Craig Street, Montréal.

enjoyment of "all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ," and which, therefore, should be the highest duty of every christian, in fellowship with us, in these last days, to maintain.

While, however, we accept your decision as above in the unity of the Body, we would repudiate for ourselves the teaching of Mr. Grant in his Tracts—"Life in Christ and Sealing of the Spirit"—"The Church in a city"—and on "The Atonement, in connection with Propitiation and Substitution." For though it is true Mr. Grant has not been put out of fellowship for the doctrines he holds, but for the DIVISIONS and PARTIES which must follow in consequence of such doctrines being taught and published; still we can see, that unless the unscriptural and dangerous tendency of these doctrines is realized, the necessity of dealing with our brother about them, as has been done by the assembly in Montreal, will not be felt; but when they are seen in their true character, and we find their teaching persisted in, without regard to the consciences of God's servants, who must oppose them, as they begin to see what they mean; then the decision of the Montreal Assembly will be accepted, not only in the unity of the Body, but in our own hearts, as in truth the decision of Christ Himself, and carrying His authority with it.

It is with deep and heart-felt thankfulness to God we have to state, that His grace still keeps about four-fifths of the Assembly here, holding the truth of the One Body and endeavouring, through His grace, to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Faithfully in the Lord
on behalf of the Assembly,

ALFRED CORKE.
WM. N. BLAKELY
JAMES L. ROBINSON.
A. COOPER.
F. BRENDON.
S. FAWKES.

JOSEPH LESSLIE.
JAS. S. CARTWRIGHT.
W. E. GARDINER.
JOHN SHAW.
J. H. McNAIRN.
WM. LACKIE.