

Neither must the unity of the reformed churches be a mere unity of sentiment. To allow all the churches to remain as they are, with their distinctive names, and merely to cultivate a feeling of friendliness amongst them, with an occasional exchange of pulpits, would not be much of an improvement on the present state of affairs. Every one of the churches has something to learn from its neighbours. There are things that we might well adopt from the Presbyterians and Methodists ; there are things in which those bodies could learn from us. True union would give us this mutual enlightenment and combined strength ; a mere unity of sentiment would teach us nothing, and would have no effect upon the world.

What do we mean, then, by union ? We mean a corporate union of Protestantism—a union in which, while the fundamentals of the faith are held in their unchangeableness and entirety, there shall be liberty in all matters of man's devising, and a healthy recognition of congregational individuality. We mean a union that will not lose one atom of that which is good in the various systems of which it is formed, but consecrate them all to the service of Him who is the head of the body, the Church. We mean a union that will combine and concentrate the forces of Protestant Christianity in such a way that there will be a gain in effectiveness and usefulness, so that the world may see in the Church a witness