

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

HAVE WE TOO MANY CHURCHES?

Not very long ago there appeared in The Dawn a very interesting article dealing with the necessity of union among the colored churches of Canada. The writer begins with the following statement: "Since the consummation of Organic Church Union among Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Methodists (white) the adoption of a similar union among our churches (colored) is receiving its full share of consideration." And it is well that such a proposition should receive its full measure of meditation and deep consideration.

Here in Canada our people are, as a rule, either A.M.E. Methodists, B.M.E. Methodists, or Baptists. But there are exceptions. We have in mind a city with a colored population of about 600, with five colored churches, all of different denominations. A few Sundays ago we visited each one of these five churches. We found that if all these five churches had united into one single congregation there would have been about 110 worshippers, including women, men, children, babies and the respective choirs. We were therefore forced to come to the conclusion that, although our people in this particular place have not any too much Christianity, they are most certainly over-supplied with churches. Last winter we visited the A.M.E. and the B.M.E. Churches of our largest city on the same evening. We observed enough people in both churches to make a nice big congregation for one church. We have here in our own city a Baptist Church and a Methodist Church. On any Sunday during the year our two congregations would make a fair sized audience considering the number of colored people we have here. In attempting to approach the subject of Union between these two churches a friend said to a delegation from one church: "Since there are so few of us here, not enough to support two churches properly, why not have one Union Church?" "When they finished telling me of the beliefs that accompanied their faith in their special denomination, how they were rooted and grounded in it, I was quite willing to shut up," said he.

But after all, what does CHRISTIANITY really mean? Is it the following dogmatically of certain religious faiths, the guarding and keeping of certain creeds, religious formula, and practices? Is it the following of

the designs of men or is it the following of the example of Christ? Christianity means Christlike. There is no record showing that He ever made any division, any fuss over different creeds and doctrines. His example is the religion of love and justice and forbearance, and charity. It is exemplified in the act of the good Samaritan, who when he saw a fellow man in need, thought not of the difference in their religious beliefs but of human suffering only. What we need to be rooted and grounded in most is not denominational faith, but in the goodness and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour; the creeds and religious faith will fade into insignificance. Then any church to us will become God's Temple and it will be good enough to worship Him in.

Our observations have lead us to believe that we have too many churches according to our church-going population. We believe also, with the writer, that a union between some of our churches would be of inestimable value to our folk, both spiritually and materially. We would advocate Church Union, not only because the white churches have united, but because it is Christlike, because it is the only thing to do to strengthen our weak position; because we would then be in a better position to adequately spread the spirit of Christ. We could of course continue stumbling along in this same old rut for years to come, struggling, single handed and divided, instead of united. But we shall never be able to put forth our best efforts for His Kingdom, which is yet to come, as long as these efforts are circumscribed by creed and denominational faiths.

We are hoping to see the day when our folk shall have just as many but no more churches than our population demands. We long to see the day when our leaders shall be broad enough to sacrifice personal ambition for the good of the people.

BRANTFORD

Rev. H. D. Wright filled the pulpit at both services on Sunday, the attendance being very good at both services.

Rev. and Mrs. Wright, Rev. S. A. and Mrs. Lucas motored to London and spent several days visiting the fair and friends and reports a delightful visit.

Mrs. Chas. Walker, her grandson Leonard and Miss Gladys, spent the week end in Toronto visiting her daughter, Mrs. George Wilson and Mr. Wilson.

The Stewardess Board met at the home of Mrs. S. A. Lucas. After the transaction of much business the hostess served a delightful lunch which was the delight of all present.

Mr. James Murray is confined to his home through illness.

Miss Georgina Walker of New York but late of Toronto, is spending a few weeks with her mother and sister, Mrs. Chas. Walker and Miss Gladys, before returning to New York to join a theatrical company for the coming season. Miss Walker is an elocutionist of rare ability and we wish her every success.

LONDON

Mrs. Wm. Anderson of Chatham, who was the guest of her cousin, Mrs. Drake, returned home last week.

Little Helen Ball, who is now residing in Oakville, was a visitor in town over the week end.

In spite of the inclement weather, a good number were present at the Sabbath School on Sunday, Sept. 27. A very interesting review was held under the leadership of the Superintendent. Mrs. Graham who was a visitor with us gave a solo which was enjoyed by all.

Rev. and Mrs. Lucas were visitors in town and were the guests of Rev. and Mrs. Woodcock.

Rev. and Mrs. Wright were visitors in town, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers entertained the Rev. Woodcock and family to dinner on Friday evening. Covers were laid for 11.

CLAIBORNE—FOUNTAIN.

Mr. Ollie Renard Claiborne of Minneapolis and Mrs. Estelle Fountaine of Marquette, Mich and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Jones were quietly married, Friday Sept. 11 by Rev. T. J. Carr. After a wedding trip to Omaha St. Paul and Duluth Mr. and Mrs. Claiborne will reside in Marquette, Mich.

The funeral services of Mr. Lou Stewart were conducted from the Hill Street Baptist Church on Friday, Sept. 18. As was expected the church was crowded to overflowing as Mr. Stewart was well liked by all. His mother and sister from Detroit and his step son, Mr. Willis Moxley, of Boston, attended the funeral. The services were conducted by Rev. S. R. Drake and Rev. T. Woodcock.

Mrs. L. Winlock of Cleveland is visiting her brother, Mr. Wm. Hunter. Her many friends are making her stay in the city a pleasant one.

Mr. James Coursey is improving satisfactorily.

Mrs. Mathews of Stratford recently visited her daughter, Mrs. Grace Groat.

Mrs. Eliza Groat, of 662 Trafalgar St. has been very ill. She is improving at this writing.

The Baptist concert last Tuesday was an overwhelming success.

The chicken supper at the home of Mrs. Minnie Harris last Tuesday evening was a most enjoyable affair. It was a grand success.

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