

There were present, among others, one Austrian major, seven captains, three lieutenants, and one ensign; a Prussian lieutenant-colonel on half-pay, with two majors, five captains, and one cornet, a major and a lieutenant of the Elector of Saxony; two captains of the Elector of Mentz; three ensigns of the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel; two lieutenants of the Margrave of Baden Durlach; an aide-de-camp of the Duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttle; a major of the Prince Bishop of Bamberg; the town majors of the imperial cities of Ulm, Lubeck, and Nuremberg; two of the bodyguard of the Prince of Hohenzollern Sigmaringen; an adjutant of the Duke of Anhalt Cothen; with a drum-major of the Abbess of Quedlinburg, besides many others, of whom we cannot now speak particularly. The officers belonging to foreign armies were not deficient in sympathy with the peaceful and philanthropic objects of the association. France was represented by two majors, and a cornet of the Swiss Guards; Denmark, by two midshipmen and a lieutenant of artillery; Spain, by three ensigns of the sappers and miners; Great Britain by a captain of the Blues, two lieutenants of the 42d Highlanders, and a half-pay lieutenant of marines; the North American colonies by an extra aide-de-camp of the governor of North Carolina, and the senior lieutenant of the grenadier company of the Massachusetts local militia. Nothing could surpass the harmony which prevailed at each of the convivial meetings, except, perhaps, the unexampled impartiality with which the places of honour were distributed. As an illustration of which, I may just mention that, on the first day, a major of the Prince Bishop of Eichstadt sat at the head, and a captain of the Prussian infantry at the foot, of the breakfast-table; a lieutenant of the Archbishop of Salzburg was chairman at dinner, and a cornet of the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order acted as vice; and their respective places were occupied at supper by the captain of the civic guard at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, and a first lieutenant of the Duke of Saxe Cobourg's fusiliers. Although, however, much mirth and cordiality prevailed during the three days of the meeting, and a sudden thought struck many of the most enthusiastic members of the institution, in virtue of which they swore an eternal friendship, these feelings gradually cooled down during a twelve-month's interval of separation, and extended only in a very faint degree to the officers of the different armies who took no personal part in the proceedings; besides which, the entire scheme was wholly ignored or disapproved of by the various independent Governments; none of the field-marsals or generals countenanced the movement, or condescended to take any part in its sayings or doings; its members became "marked men," and were seldom, if ever, selected for employment or promotion. They themselves fell back into their respective ranks and, as soon as a war broke out, they completely lost sight of all the principles and programmes of the alliance, and were often matched against each other under their respective banners; in so much that, at the battle of Rosbach, a captain of the Prince Bishop of Paderborn, who had presided at one of the *agapæ* of the association, was wounded and taken prisoner by a Prussian cornet, who had, on that occasion, acted as his *Croupier*; and an ensign of the Landgrave of Hesse Darmstadt, who had moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, was killed by a major of Hanoverian hussars, by whom his proposal had been seconded. About fifty years later, the whole of the sovereign bishoprics were secularised, which act was followed by the suppression of many of the petty principalities, a still larger number of which were

absorbed by the greater powers at a later period. The officers and soldiers, who had previously been in the service of different authorities, were now, in each case, consolidated into one; all jealousies, and even all distinctions of every kind, were wholly obliterated, and it became impossible (for instance) in the Bavarian army to know whether a captain or a common soldier had previously belonged to the ancient electorate of that name, or had been a subject of the Elector Palatine, or in the pay of the Prince Bishop of Wurzburg. The case of the Evangelical Alliance is, in many respects, not very dissimilar. The revered and excellent individuals who attend its annual meetings derive, no doubt, much edification and comfort from their mutual intercourse and communion; but their influence over the general masses of their respective churches is transitory and inconsiderable. The Episcopal superiors of the English members seem in no degree to participate in their feelings, or to encourage their efforts. Many leaders of other (and especially Established) communions, keep aloof; their latitudinarian benevolence is no passport to the favour of those in authority, whether civil or ecclesiastical; they themselves, as soon as they separate, are again ranged under their respective denominational banners; and were a question to be mooted as to church government or discipline, or with respect to the comparative merits of the Establishment or self-sustaining principles, or as to any of the doctrines on which the various members of the Alliance conscientiously differ, they would doubtless (though probably with diminished acerbity) enter the controversial arena as antagonists, and the healing balm of the Alliance panacea would be scarcely adequate to staunch their wounds.

It is therefore from union and incorporation, wherever honourably practicable, that I look for the revival of strength, zeal, harmony, and co-operation, in the Protestant world; and I should, indeed, rejoice if the honoured fathers and brethren, to whom, in the present case, the decision in this matter appertains, should, under the guidance and agency of the spirit of truth and concord, be enabled to consolidate our discordant and dislocated battalions into one exceeding great army, ranged under the guidance and guardianship of Him whose watchword for them is unity, and whose banner over them is love. When one of my friends observed, that this proposal is premature, and that it must be a question of time, I replied, that if no advocate for its adoption should ever urge it upon public notice, it would prove to be a question for eternity. Another much respected adviser expressed a similar conviction, in somewhat different terms; for he said that I was "a generation too soon" in endeavouring to accomplish such an object, however abstractly desirable in itself. It remains with you, my friends, to determine whether "this witness is true." But I am persuaded, that if the present attempt should prove abortive, and the effecting of a Christian union on a Christian basis is a blessing reserved for a more pliant and more placable age, our punctilious fastidiousness will be denounced as our folly, and neither our sayings nor our doings will be honoured with the approving verdict of an enlightened and dispassionate posterity. Oh, that all the unendowed Presbyterians of our land, being fused into one great national communion, may be enabled to exhibit to the world the stability and efficiency of a Church, emancipated from state coercion, and untrammelled by state endowment,—a faithful expositor of truth,—a fearless antagonist to error,—and within whose consecrated pale the ministers are amply provided for by their people's spontaneous and generous liberality, and the people pre-