

Symposium.

SOME THOUGHTS ON ORGANISED CHRISTIAN UNITY.

WHAT is our goal in this matter? All Christians to be united under one organization. The condition precedent to any organized union is a substantial unity of sentiment, belief, and object.

Advantages:—

Economy of men, money and time; efficiency; impression on the world; impression on the heathen; stimulus to one another; the best men to be available for all the churches.

But the causes that brought about the separation of Christians and the formation of churches are still existent. No organization could hold together that sought to repress them. If there was not liberty to follow out inclination or conviction, then there would be separation.

For example, there could not be a repression of freedom of prayer in public worship, and an imposition of forms; there could not be a repression of forms, and an imposition of freedom of prayer; nor a repression of private meetings for edification; nor of evangelistic efforts and work; nor of prayer meetings, in which freedom of prayer and utterance would prevail.

There could not be an imposition of Creeds, to be regularly and universally said in public worship, or of Catechisms to be taught to children; nor of chants or anthems to be used in worship; nor, on the other hand, could there be repression of these things. There could not be a repression of lay prayer and preaching; nor could there be a refusal to allow laymen to take part in managing the affairs of a church—or part in the choice of a pastor. In all these matters, we can see how the tastes, convictions, judgment, and desires of Christian people have led them apart; some clinging closely to order, ceremony, creed; others disliking the restraint of these, and valuing freedom in worship and church life. Some value authority in government, the pastor being responsible to the bishop,