

which is by no means the case—it would still be rash to predict immediate union, because the same enlightened and conciliatory spirit might not be found in all others concerned. Have they then labored in vain, and spent their strength for nought? By no means. They have made several points very clear.

1. That in the opinion of the majority of them the present divided state of the Church of God is not the best.

The Methodist representative, the Rev. Dr. Shaw, dissents emphatically from this position; and the Rev. Dr. Cornish, Congregationalist, does the same, with apparently less strength of conviction. The former for doctrinal and other reasons, regards union "impracticable," and sees in it very grave dangers. It would lead to "spiritual stagnation," to "arbitrary administration," and involve "an element of bigotry." To look for it is to disregard the verdict of history which "is most strongly and unequivocally in favor of the principle of denominationalism" which has the great merit of "meeting the variety of temperament and life with which it has to deal." The Doctor therefore clings tenaciously to "denominationalism" without "the spirit of sectarianism"—which is something difficult to define,—and seems still more difficult to act upon in view of the well-known zeal with which denominations "draw" upon each other, and try to thrust each other out of certain portions of the Master's field. Practically, a denomination and a sect, if not identical, are Siamese twins. Their internal economy and the circulation of the vital current are so intermingled that when the one dies the other cannot long survive. We are pretty firmly of opinion that the Apostle who condemned the Corinthians for saying, "I am of Paul, and I am of Apollos," could not agree with our Wesleyan brother. It is not one whit more innocent to say in Canada, I am of Wesley, or of Calvin, or of Knox, or of the Pope, than it was to say in Corinth I am of Paul, and I am of Apollos. The same apostle can say with equal force to both parties, "Are ye not carnal?" "I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

We cling to the Apostle's view. It must be true, and somehow practicable, and not necessarily leading to "stagnation" and arbitrariness when the Church is constituted and ruled on Apostolic principles and we have all been sufficiently enlightened by the Spirit of God and drawn nearer to Jesus our living Head.