

unity. Let us look at the present position : (1) The Presbyterian brethren took the initiative in this matter. (2) Congregationalists, not being schismatics, have *always* been in favor of union. Congregationalism is *not* a sect ; it is the solvent of the sects.

Rev. Dr. Hindley : He had talked with Presbyterian ministers, and found a willingness to draw together. And had talked over a basis of union with them. We have a right to talk over this matter with the Presbyterians. We are not going to swallow down the Confession of Faith ! The eyes of others are on us. Let us act wisely. John saw twelve gates to the Heavenly City. Some denominations think they have a contract to build walls ; and they put in only *one* gate, and put their denominational sign up over it.

Rev. Prof. Warriner : What is the "union" proposed ? The country thinks it is corporate union ; our ten brethren say "No." But we want to know all about it. He hesitated about corporate union. We would not like to be in corporate union just now with the Presbyterian church in the United States. The Presbyterians take the position that men may be servants of Christ, and doing good work for the Lord, and still not be accepted in the Presbyterian church.

Rev. J. R. Black, Kingston, moved the following amendment :

That this Union, having passed the following resolutions in 1887 relating to Christian Union : Whereas the Congregational churches, having always been willing to promote a spirit of unity among various branches of the Christian church and to enter into every movement in that direction consistent with what they believe to be New Testament principles and to be of righteousness and freedom : be it resolved that this Union appoint a committee to confer with committees appointed by any Christian bodies to take this matter into consideration, and to give effect to which a standing committee was then appointed and re-appointed in 1888, and which committee consisting of Rev. W. Cuthbertson, Rev. Dr. Wild and Revs. Dr. Jackson and John Burton, has never been discharged : "Therefore be it resolved that this Union reaffirms the above resolution, discharges the committee, and appoints a new committee to carry the resolution into effect."

[EDITORIAL NOTE.—This amendment, which ultimately prevailed, is weak in its preamble. No committees, appointed by the Union, ever exist longer than the year. Nor would our self-governing and democratic churches for a moment allow such oligarchical bodies to exist as Committees of the Union, standing from year to year. There was a certain skill in assuming that certain brethren were not only acting in a way to commit the churches to an unpopular movement, but were also acting officiously in usurping the duties of an already existing committee, but the facts will not bear it out.]

Mr. Black said the Presbyterians had approached the whole Congregational Union. He did not at all question the motives of the brethren who went to the Toronto Presbytery. But it had been wiser to act through the former committee, or wait till this Union again met.

Dr. Jackson seconded the amendment. We are all in favor of Christian unity. Five years ago, after the "Lambeth Conference," a committee on union was appointed. He held that that committee was not yet discharged. We are not prepared to indorse the action of these eleven brethren. But we desire to take the same position we took five years ago ; ready to meet any branch of the Christian church, to confer on possible union. All no doubt acted on the sincerest convictions. He thought this was the dignified and proper position for us to take.

James Woodyatt, Brantford : These negotiations, at this juncture, are only a waste of time. It is only a diversion of energy. It will only disturb the minds of our members. Better spend the time doing the work possible for ministers and members of Congregational churches. Congregationalism has done a good work in England, in the United States, and in Canada. Keep on doing it. That is the opinion of the Congregational church in Brantford ; and for fifty years we have been trying to do some good work for Christ.

Rev. William Johnston, Toronto, moved a further amendment, asserting that this movement for union was premature, but that it was desirable that arrangements with other denominations should, if possible, be made whereby interfering and over-lapping should be avoided, in home and foreign work. Mr. Johnston added ; Mr. Duff calls this a "golden opportunity," but he confessedly does not know what the probable basis is, or what concessions the Presbyterians are ready to make.

D. D. Hay, Stratford, favored Mr. Johnston's amendment. Thought there was a prospect of organic union on "Congregational" principles. Thought one reason for our present position was, that we had not the right leaders.

Rev. T. W. Gunn, Cowansville, thought *we* were carrying on "union." Our churches were not in favor of organic union. He believed our best plan of union was to live in love with others, and do Christ's work in our own localities.

H. O'Hara, Toronto, moved a substitute, to refer the motion and amendments to a committee to report to-morrow morning to the Union. Seconded by Rev. A. F. McGregor, of Woodstock. A motion to adjourn, however, prevailed, and this reference fell to the ground.