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## PRESBYTERIAN REUNION AND REFORMATION PRINCIPLES.

(A PAPER READ AT THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS, CHICAGO.)

AT a Congress of the Religions of the World, every Church is called on to state its distinctive principles and to consider whether it has sufficient vitality to adapt them to changed conditions of time, country and society. Having proved its moral right to continue as a separate organization, the question arises, why does it not present an unbroken front to the world?

It would be strange should the Presbyterian Church shrink from this challenge. Protestantism is a very large fact in Christendom. The three greatest nations in the world are Protestant, and at the Reformation all the Protestant Churches, with one or two exceptions that were determined otherwise more by political than by religious forces, took the Presbyterian form, even when they did not take the name. What then are the fundamental principles of this daughter of the Reformation?

The principles of a Church constitute the law of its being. They may be obscured for a time. They may be denied outright by zealots: but if they are true they will reassert themselves. They are the only basis on which reunion can properly be effected. The Church must be broad enough to include all who are faithful to its basic principles, and strong enough to include varieties of opinion not inconsistent with its life.