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I.—LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.

THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

[EDITORIAL.—A. T. P.]

It may be doubted whether, during these eighteen Christian centuries, any body of Evangelical Christians has met to consider questions of greater practical importance than the National Conference of the Evangelical Alliance recently held in Washington, December 7th, 8th and 9th.

Like the Council of Nice, more than fifteen centuries ago, it brought together the scarred and battle-worn veterans from many fields of social and religious conflict. All denominations were represented, and by their prominent representative men. Episcopal and Methodist and Moravian bishops, Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregationalist, Lutheran pastors, theological professors and college presidents, distinguished merchants and scientists, Christian students and aggressive workers, assembled to consider the perils, opportunities and responsibilities confronting us in this great land.

The first impression of such a meeting was that of *Christian Unity*. For three days there was the freest, frankest discussion; there was no concealment of denominational peculiarities and preferences; no attempt to compromise conscientious convictions or reconcile irreconcilable differences; and yet not one inharmonious chord was struck during the three days! Brethren dwelt together in unity, and it was obviously the unity of the Spirit. Nothing evoked applause, more hearty and instantaneous, than any expression that gave utterance to the oneness of all true disciples. There was an involuntary magnifying of the things in which disciples agree, while those in which they differ were seen to be insignificant in the comparison. No addresses were more catholic and fraternal in tone than those of Bishop Harris of Michigan and Dr. Gordon of Boston.

Never did the few remaining obstacles to even a visible and organic Unity seem so small. The singing of psalms or hymns, the use of liturgical or extemporaneous prayers, the baptism by sprinkling or immersion, the open or restricted Lord's Table, and the episcopal ordination