

instead of weakness; and the sectarianism of which some good people have so great a horror, would exhibit itself not as a circumscribed fortress bristling with cannon, and stored with ammunition, but as a well watered and well kept vineyard stretching itself out into waste places until the various sections of Christian fellowship shall occupy the world and be united together as one.

We rejoice in the measure of "Esprit de Corps" which exists in the congregations of our own Church in Canada. This is our strength. It is the "witness of the Spirit with our spirit." By the measure of it which we possess we have grown from a little one to some stature among the churches, and are besides daily spreading our Christian influence over this fine country. Our missions, both at home and abroad, depend upon our congregational "Esprit de Corps" for their maintenance and wider expansion. Without this genuine brotherhood we shall, as a Church, become like a rope of sand; we have no state bonds and no material interests to sustain us in *quasi* life and union after the spirit is gone; but with this spirit of fraternity we shall be able to perfect our unity and our organization and to make besides successful aggressions upon the territories of the prince of darkness.

Let there then be "Esprit de Corps" in our congregations. What hinders? We are Christian and we are free. As a Church, we have a history and a calendar of martyrs. We have been in the past, and we are in these days, a power for good in the world. We have, therefore, much to love and reverence, and having the truth, and being heralds of the same to the nations, we have much to hope for in the future.

It were well, too, that an "Esprit de Corps" prevailed among the ministers, elders and deacons of our Church; not, let it be noted, such a selfish and exclusive feeling as would convert them from being servants to the church, to be a priesthood or a caste within it; this were unchristian; but we would have the exercise among them of ardent brotherly love—an enthusiasm for the great work entrusted to them—a sympathy with one another in hardships and afflictions—a tenderness for one another's reputation and welfare—a generous regard to the sincerity of one another's convictions and the rectitude of one another's motives in the discussion of disputed questions. In all these things the Church looks to the ministry for an example. The spirit which animates them cannot fail to influence the whole body; and especially will it give tone to the feelings of the congregation with which they are severally connected. A house divided against itself cannot stand, but united by that which every heart administers of Christian brotherly love, it will be as the munitions of rocks which cannot be destroyed. Let our motto therefore be "Esprit de Corps." ✕

HISTORICAL CHRISTIANITY.—Too many feel and speak as if they thought there were no continuity in their religion; or, as if there were no universal Church; or, as if the individual Christian, with his Bible in his hand, need fix his eyes upon nothing but the little eddy of his personal emotions; or, as if Christianity were not what it is its glory and its characteristic to be—a religion of history. Christianity, the pledge of eternity to man, is the occupant of all time; and not merely was it, itself, the ripening of the dispensations that had gone before, but it was to be the home companion of the successive generations of man, until the consummation of all things.—*Isaac Taylor.* ✕