

times when friendly approaches are made. The effect of such an endeavour to comprehend each other's position would, in a majority of cases, be to induce mutual respect.

Second.—Following upon this, might come a mutual understanding to acknowledge each other to be CHRISTIANS, and therefore worthy of fellowship. This might seem an easy matter. But to bring it to a practical issue many strong positions taken by churches of the Puritan type would have to be modified or abandoned.

Third.—More difficult far, but following naturally on these two, would be a willingness on the part of all churches to acknowledge each other to be parts or branches of the Church Catholic; and their ministry and ordinances valid. This would naturally lead to exchanges of ministerial service, and mutual co-operation in various works of usefulness. It is needless to say that to this point many Churches have arrived already.

Fourth.—All that has been indicated thus far might be realized, yet the churches be very far from a union in one organism. That must be a work of time. And to accomplish it, some theories and cherished modes and traditions would have to be given up.

If any practical steps were taken, it would be in the direction of realizing ONE CHURCH with VARIETIES IN CONGREGATIONS. The last would undoubtedly be necessary; and it exists to some extent already. There are great varieties in the congregations of the Roman communion. German Catholicism and French present very varied aspects. In the Anglican Church, as is known, several distinct types may generally be observed wherever there is more than one congregation in a city. The same thing holds good, to a lesser degree, in the Presbyterian Church, and even in the Congregational. It is therefore feasible.

And in some such manner as this, with a tenacious clinging to the fundamentals of the faith, and a large tolerance of differences and charity in things that are not fundamental, the Protestant Christians of the future may unite as one flock under the One Shepherd. Beyond this it is difficult to see at present.

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