

earth without the steam; the telegraphic apparatus would be useless without the electricity: and so Methodist union will be futile, fruitless, ruinous, a disaster and the mother of disasters without the power of God. What shall save us from pride, if not humility? What shall save us from weakness, if not strength? What shall save us from division and destruction, if not unity and love? What shall save us from darkness, if not light? What from envy, indifference, and hate, if not zeal tempered with knowledge and a noble Christian charity? And what are humility, strength, love, light, and zeal in their highest attainable degree but holiness?

We may think that we have voted union through, and it is going all well enough. We may think we have planned wisely and it must be a success. We may think the united Church has large resources and will move on by its own majority and weight. We may think there are able men and they will make things go. But what is all this but wicked pride of opinion and sinful abandonment of trust in Almighty God? What is all this but that spiritual and moral condition, that state of mind and heart upon which God always sends confusion, blasting, and overthrow? And to us this very confusion and overthrow are inevitable if we trust ourselves, our schemes, our resources, and not the living God. The Methodist Churches of this country kept separate and trusting God would be far better and have far more power notwithstanding their occasional collisions and oppositions, than united; with their resources aggregated and their abilities accumulated, forgetting God, and trusting themselves and human policy. And this is a thing of degrees, all the way from exclusive self-trust, selfishness, and worldliness, to perfect self-renunciation, trust in God, and holiness. And the Church is weaker than water or omnipotent according to its place in the scale.

This trusting ourselves and human policy is the danger apprehended by many pious souls. An argument urged vigorously against union is that our people will become proud and forget God. Nor does any man say there is no danger here; just as no man dares say, it must be so that the Church will be proud and forgetful of God; it is utterly unavoidable, an absolute necessity. In this state of probation both opportunities are before us: we can become proud and forgetful of God, or humble, constantly mindful of God, and holy. It would be sad to think that a Church cannot come into the possession of large resources of men and means without forsaking God and losing religion. If that be so, how is the Church ever to succeed in conquering