

III. IMPRESSIONS OF TORONTO ASSEMBLY

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In the social and economic world today, lines from various quarters seem to be converging towards communionism. Certainly in the spheres of thought and religion that is true. There seems to be in these a truly apostolic and world-wide desire to have all things in common. This is the age which the conveniences of rapid transit have contributed to make possible of great ecumenical councils. No doubt these have a distinct value in developing the growing world-consciousness, that form of race self-consciousness which we hope will absorb in time those narrow national forms which have grown morbid with militarism. Every time a man beholds his natural face in a glass, however absent-minded he may be, he comes to have some clearer conception of what manner of man he is, and these great modern gatherings of men are constantly holding the mirror up to Man, and we believe thereby he is coming to know himself.

Some such value certainly accrued to the Presbyterian Church in Canada from its history-making Congress and Assembly in Toronto this year. We saw ourselves in a world-setting. The eyes of Canada and the world seemed to be turned upon us, and we had that view of ourselves which the poet declares to be the most revealing, "to see ourselves at others see us." It was this debutante feeling, that we were focusing the eyes of men, that gave a somewhat sobering and introspective tinge to the atmosphere of the great gathering. We all had a sense of doing something unwonted, something that might mean much or little, something that was not only in the full view of man but under the eye of God.

It was this sense that helped much to intensify and heighten the feeling of the Congress and take away from the gathering any of the cheapness of the spectacular. We believe the general sobriety and moral earnestness of this great meeting of Presbyterians was quite in keeping with the best traditions of our church and of the great Councils or Diets of other days. There were few bosoms that came to this Congress that were not tense with expectations of personal uplift and uplift for the Church and nation. Upon many the responsibility pressed that this be not simply a great assemblage of men with men, but a coming together of men of like mind and purpose that they might meet with God.

• This attitude of mind that had been developing in days of