

Church at the Provincial Synod had been approved of in the United States, and by several diocesan synods in Canada and Australia. These were all presented to the Committee of Bishops and, on their report being presented, the Conference finally adopted a resolution on the subject in which they expressed the belief that there was a growing desire on the part of Christian people, in all lands, that they might be drawn closer together in real union. I may say that, as far as we are concerned, representing the Church of England to night, our powers are very limited. We shall have to make a report to the Provincial Synod at their meeting in September of this year. The functions of the Committee do not extend beyond that date. We shall then have the pleasant duty laid upon us of reporting to that Synod what shall have been the general resolution of the Conference. This being a Conference, it possesses no legislative power. We cannot expect to effect anything in the way of legislation. All we have to do is to confer, and I think it well to bear in mind that we meet for conference and not controversy. I desire to emphasize that it is in no sense a controversy that has brought us together, but a conference in the spirit of Christian charity. I think what we should seek is to find out how much there is of positive truth in Christian doctrine in which we all agree. I think that is one of the most important points that could result from a conference of this sort, to establish the largest basis of common truth which we all hold. Then there are other truths, matters of doctrine and matters of discipline, upon which we have certain differences. With regard to these, we desire to find, if possible, if there is not some way in which they may be ultimately rectified, so that eventually the great hope which fills all our hearts that the Church of Christ may indeed be one, may be attained. Of course, unity is our ultimate object, and I think I represent the views on the subject of my brethren who form the Church of England delegation when I say, it is with more than complimentary complacency that we meet together; it is with a view to helping forward nothing less or short of that unity which is set forth in Scripture, when it represents the members of the Church of Christ as members of one body. It is no doubt within the knowledge of all who are present that in every resolution which has been passed by the Church in the United States and Australia, and by the Lambeth Conference, there were certain articles agreed upon as forming a probable basis of agreement. They are briefly "The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as containing all things necessary to salvation, and as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith. The Apostles' Creed as the baptismal symbol, and the Nicene Creed as the sufficient statement of the Christian faith. The two Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself—Baptism and the Supper of the Lord—ministered with unfailing use of Christ's words of institution, and of the

elements ordained by Him. The Historic Episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the unity of the Church."

On motion, the Rev. John Langtry was asked to address the Conference, and before he proceeded to do so, the Bishop of Toronto, at the suggestion of members, gave an outline of the matters which had been under the consideration of the Committee of the Anglican Church. As these are mentioned later in the Report of the Committee on the Order of proceedings it is unnecessary to state them at this point.

REV. MR. LANGTRY, upon coming forward to speak upon the question of Corporate Unity, said: I hope I am duly impressed with the solemnity and importance of this occasion. I shall endeavour to carry with me, in anything that I may say, the spirit which has been invoked for our meeting by the opening address. It is very important, I think, that we should try to avoid everything that will cause discussion or irritation, and that we should proceed to deliberate as brethren meeting here on perfectly equal terms. I very much regret that the duty of making the statement of the views of the delegation on Unity was not entrusted to some one abler than I am. I suppose it is only natural that some member of the Church of England delegation should be called upon to state the object of our Conference and the grounds upon which we hope it will do good, for the honour of initiating the corporate action which has issued in our assembling here to-night rests with us. And I suppose for the same reason it was natural that I should be called upon in the presence of far abler men to make the statement, as I think I had the honour or temerity of moving the first resolution in our Provincial Synod six years ago, that we should take corporate action to see what could be done to restore the broken unity of the Church of Christ. It has been a matter of thought and prayer, I am sure, to many of us for years. I think that the time has arrived when some definite action should be attempted. I do not venture to hope that we shall accomplish union to night, but I have hopes that our Conference will lead to a friendly consideration of the subject, and that as it was with the children of Israel, that when they seemed to be surrounded with hopeless difficulties the command came to go forward; so, perhaps, difficulties which to some appear to be insuperable may be eventually overcome. We had not the object of asking you to meet here for merely making complimentary speeches to one another, or to parcel out the land between us and arrange not to interfere with each other's preserves. I am persuaded that if we hold our differences conscientiously we could not do that. In thinking about this matter we have endeavoured to ascertain, so far as we may, what is the mind of the Spirit; not what sort of union would commend itself