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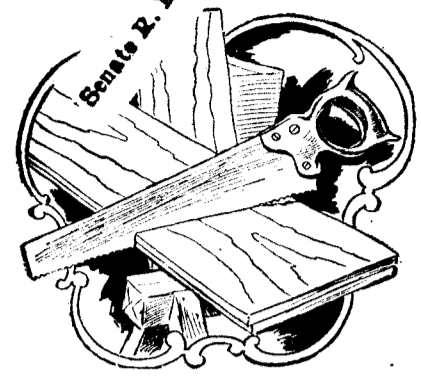
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PROTESTANT UNION

It is possible and even probable that the Presbyterians, the Methodists, and the Congregationalists of Canada will unite in one body before many years. There are obstacles in the way, of course. It is always easier to divide men than to unite them in religion. But the advantages of union are evident especially in view of the development of the great Northwest, and the obstacles in this case are not insuperable. How will such a union affect us? It will give Protestants greater weight in the affairs of Canada, and we may expect that, to a certain extent, the increased influence will be used to our disadvantage. In writing about the Normal school recently the Rev. G. H. McLeod, of Truro, remarked: "When Roman Catholics are satisfied the trend of things is not our way." This is a narrow view of viewing things; but it is too often the Protestant way, and the larger body resulting from the union may often feel uneasy unless we are dissatisfied. Despite all this we venture the prediction that, on the whole, the results of the union will be to the advantage of the Catholic Church. Union is the Catholic ideal, and every sincere effort to secure it is a step towards Catholicism. The inevitable efforts to hold the larger body together will beget a new insistence on the importance of their Church, its authority and divine sanctions, and on the need of definite forms of public worship. In the past the Evangelists, as they are called, insisted much on the liberty to differ. Their efforts at union will lead them to teach also the obligation to agree. In the past they gave much attention to the words of St. Paul, as they understood them. In the future they will see new meanings in those words, looking at them from a different point of view, in the light of St. Paul's example. St. Paul's life, as an apostle, was one of tribulation and of solicitude. He suffered much from "false brethren." Christian Jews literally persecuted him everywhere. They denied his apostleship. They derided his character. They got him into difficulties with the civil authorities. Why? He could easily have rid himself of this trouble if only he could admit sectarianism as compatible with the Christian religion. If he could allow the Jews and Gentiles to form separate sects in the Christian Church, all his sufferings from this source would have ended at once. But no; he insisted always and everywhere on the duty of outward and visible unity in one body, for Jews and Gentiles alike; and since he could not impose on the Gentiles some of the things which the Jewish Christians still loved, his efforts at a complete union of both in one body brought down upon him the wrath of Jewish Christians. If Protestant effort to unite will make them realize the significance of this example of St. Paul, as will probably happen, they will revive Catholic truth among themselves and learn that visible unity is part of the greatest of Christian virtues, charity. We know how much, or rather we know not how much the revival of Catholic ideas in the Anglican Church has worked for Catholicism. Why should not similar good result from a similar movement among the Evangelicals?—The Casket, Feb. 15.

Etiquette Lessons

"Madam," he began, as the door opened, "I am selling a new book on 'Etiquette and Deportment.'"

"Oh, you are," she responded. "Go down there and clean the mud off your feet!"

"Yes'm. As I was saying, ma'am, I am sell—"

"Take off your hat. Never address a strange lady at her door without removing your hat."

"Yes'm. Now, then, as I was say—"

"Take your hands out of your pockets. No gentleman ever carries his hands there."

"Yes'm. Now, ma'am, this work on 'Eti—'"

"Throw away your pipe. If a gentleman uses tobacco he is careful not to disgust others by the habit."

"Yes'm. Now, ma'am, in calling attention to this valuable—"

"Wait. Put that dirty handkerchief out of sight, and use less grease on your hair in future. Now you look a bit decent. You have a book on 'Etiquette and Deportment'? Very well, I don't want it. I am only the servant girl. Go up to the front door and talk with the lady of the house. She called me a downright, outright, no-doubt-about-it idiot this morning, and I think the book you're selling is just what she requires."

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