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"Of the towns and villages having a population of one thousand or less, four hundred and eighty-three have two Protestant churches each, two hundred and thirty-five have three Protestant churches each, fifty-four have four Protestant churches each, seven have five Protestant churches each, one had six Protestant churches."

Reference is then made to some articles in the *Century* by Mr. Washington Gladden as to the practicability of doing away with this rivalry and waste, and some comments from the *New York Christian Advocate* are added. These we give:—

"An insuperable difficulty in the way appears to be this: The union of the churches of the different denominations in one Church of Christ in country places would necessitate some kind or form of government. It could not be the Protestant Episcopal form, for that would involve an acceptance of its apostolical succession, its liturgy, and its unwillingness to exchange with or recognize as ministers those not of its own denomination. It could not be the Baptist system, because it would necessitate, as practiced in this country, the refusal of the Holy Communion to all who were not immersed. It could not be the Presbyterian body or system, because the Episcopalians and the Baptists could not conscientiously accept it; nor would they consent to come under the jurisdiction of the Methodist system with its itinerancy and bishops. The practical effect, therefore, of an attempt to promote the Christian League idea would be to build up Congregational churches, governed by Congregational principles, and ignoring the general conscientiously held peculiarities of the various bodies. As a scheme for spreading Congregationalism, the Christian League idea is entitled to great credit." The *Advocate* states that in many places in the west, where such union movements have been tried, the result has been what is here intimated."

Union therefore is, in the eyes of our friends, impracticable, because *only on the Congregational ideal can it be realized!* Denominationalism must prevail because union would destroy it. This is what the confessions of our contemporaries really imply. The Christian world cannot unite on Episcopacy, or on Methodism, or on the Baptist theory; and the endeavor to promote the Christian league idea is practically to give effect to Congregational principles. Certain it is that the Christian world will never unite on authority, nor on organization, but on sympathy and life, with direct responsibility to Christ the Head, which is the Congregational ideal; and they whose special care it is to witness for that ideal will do well to note the fact that they are witnessing to the only possible ground of that Christian unity which is to bring together the scattered Israel of God.

Mark, we do not say that we have ourselves worked out that unity among ourselves; there are with us, alas, the heresy scent and unworthy suspicions; and much lacking, the Christian *esprit de corps*; nevertheless, the truth that church life and unity depends upon Christ's presence and not upon uniformity of creed, ritual or form, is that we specially are called to witness for, on that witnessing only can the fabric of Christian unity securely rest. May God enable us to witness more faithfully, fully, as the days go by.

SOME friend writing to the *Canada Presbyterian* on our new cause in Woodstock, naturally in not the most amiable strain, speaks of our "Congregational Missionary Superintendent" as "a most zealous denominational propagandist." We accept the left handed compliment as a testimony to the zeal of our friend, and to the fact that he is making the society felt in this Dominion. We believe ere long, when the denominational envy has passed, that Woodstock will be grateful for the Providence which led to the establishment of a church of our order there.

IN a private letter from Mr. Gordon-Smith of Stratford, we read that the mortgagees have notified the Trustees of the church that unless all arrears of interest are paid by February 7th, legal steps will be taken to collect. The history of this church immediately prior to its resuscitation under our energetic superintendent and the present pastor is not pleasant to contemplate, and had better not be referred to save as a reason for pressing the church's present need upon the active sympathy of our friends. \$250 is all that is needed to turn the tide for a people that have struggled manfully to overcome their difficulties, and we appeal to friends whom God hath blessed to come to the rescue at once. Is the Stratford church building to be sold? or retained for our use? Prompt action alone will answer. Let Mr. C. E. Gordon-Smith, the pastor, hear at once from friends.

THE faithful teacher will, of course, take an interest in the amusements of his scholars. "How shall the long winter evenings be spent?" is a question of importance. Parents should give some attention to this question, but there is much a teacher can do in aid of social gatherings which otherwise would be neglected,