

This Conference was informally opened by a social meeting in the building of the Young Men's Christian Association, on Thursday evening, the 2nd October. The assemblage was a brilliant, and—considering its cosmopolitan character—for America, a remarkable one. The parlours, reading-room, &c., were beautifully adorned with flowers and pictures, and the large hall was decorated with much taste. The gallery front was completely covered with bunting; the American flag being repeated in combination with the Union Jack, the tri-colour, and the ensigns of all the nations represented in the Conference; while the platform recess contained, high over the centre, the motto of the Alliance: *Unum corpus sumus in Christo*, with the dates "1846-1873." Below this was: *In Necessariis Unitas; In Dubiis Libertas; In Omnibus Caritas*. The great names of Luther and Calvin, Wycliffe, Knox, Bunyan, Wesley and Edwards were also displayed among the festoonings; while, high above all, a gilded eagle held in his beak the national sentence. *E Pluribus Unum*, which sentiment was still further emphasized by bannerets in German and French, on either side lower down, rendering the English: "Diverse like the waves, yet still one like the sea."

The Rev. Dr. Adams, in his address of welcome, said: We are living in times when all over the world there is a manifest longing for more visible unity. Conventions and expositions are held, in which representatives from all countries meet to compare and interchange ideas and commodities. These are signs which like the tufts of grass and sprigs of red berries which caught the eye of Columbus from the mast-head of the "Pinta," betoken the vicinity of land. We may be mistaken in our reckoning—fog banks may be taken for land; but we know in what direction the land lies, and we must sail onwards till we reach it. We pretend not to create unity, certainly not by artificial ligatures, but to testify to that which exists already. God is one. The redemption of Jesus Christ is one. The kingdom of God on earth, for the coming of which all hearts and voices are taught to pray, is presented as an object in the singular number—one and not many. What is of essential benefit to one church and one nation in course of time becomes the property of all. You cannot fence off the great ocean into private pastures; you cannot partition off the firmament into household lots; you cannot divide sun, moon and stars into bits of personal property; you cannot by any process monopolize great Christian ideas; you cannot play Robinson Crusoeism in the Church of God. No man can appropriate to himself, in an insular spirit, any exclusive right in those great matters to the discussion of which we now welcome you—Christian Faith, Christian Life, Christian Work, Christian Hope, and Christian Destiny. Bigots may misunderstand this, and lend themselves to what is private, local and exclusive. But there is no such thing as private property in good thoughts, good deeds and good men. Paul is ours, Cephas is ours and Apollos is ours. All the great historic names associated with scholarship, philanthropy and religion, no matter in what land they were born, or in what church they were baptized, are the common property of all Christian believers.

Lord Alfred Churchill read a letter of greeting from the Council of the London Branch of the Alliance. Dr. Stoughton, in replying for England to the address of welcome, referred to the following incident: "A friend of mine and myself visited a girls' school the other day, and as we entered the girls rose, and, with what we considered the most exquisite taste imaginable, sang 'God save the Queen,' and as soon as they had finished, went on singing 'God bless our native land.' I thought that was exquisitely beautiful—the mingled prayer for England's Queen and for this whole country. And I think the spirit which pervades this meeting is just like that which actuated those simple girls. I look around, and while I see the Stars and Stripes my eye rests immediately after on something which looks like the Union Jack. I hope they will always be folded together in that peaceful way. May they never be exposed to the storms of war. Why, my friends, I feel to-night as I look around on you, that a war between England and America will henceforth be an impossibility."

Rev. Narayan Sheshadri, a converted Brahmin from India, said: "I heard while