

so much to maintain our own views, as to know and practice *the truth*, not so much to yield and come nearer to other denominations, as to approximate towards the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ as expressed in his doctrines and precepts must be the central point on which we meet. As different denominations approach this, we shall come nearer to each other. So much agreement as there is in the mind of Christ, so much is there of real christian union—a union that has more in it than a name.

Our churches are affording growing evidence that the Bible is sufficient for the guidance of the Church, as well as of individuals, and that there needs no standard of human framing to be a bond of union; nay more, they are proving to those who are willing to admit evidence of the fact, that those attempts which men have made to reduce to uniformity of sentiment the minds of many men and many churches, have been rather the bone of contention which have caused strife and disagreement. Among Congregational Brethren peace has been preserved to an extent known no where else; and, for *this reason*, they give to every individual and to every Church, the wide range of the Word of God, and they accord to them the privilege of asking for themselves the never-failing promise of the Holy Spirit to lead them into all truth.

*Having understanding of the times, we ought to do what we can to influence public opinion.*

Public opinion is worked by mind. It is evidently the duty of christians to influence and control the character and opinions of the world. Christians are commanded not to conform to the world, but to dissent from it and to oppose it manfully and openly. They are required to maintain this opposition to the principles, opinions and habits of the world till they master them; and they are to retain and improve this victory, in order to influence and control the public opinion of the world.

It is predicted that the world, with all its sentiments and opinions, shall be brought under the power of christian principles. To our Sovereign and King, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess. This will be secured not by coercion but by the attractions and influence of holy character. In that day every grace and virtue of christians will be in full development, and vigorous maturity. Religion will inscribe the character of holiness upon the common affairs of life. Then the merchandise and the hire of men will be holiness to Jehovah. The merchant will be as holy in devout feeling and purpose in the transaction of business, as he is now in the public means of grace; and the labourer, in getting his hire, will be as conscientious and devotional, as he is