



## The Book Shelf

Relations of the Christian Churches

(By Rev. Robert Campbell, D. D.)

One of the young old men of the Canadian Presbyterian Church is Dr. Robert Campbell, the honored Senior Clerk of the General Assembly. Though well on to four score years his mind is fresh and active and in the volume before us he has done a piece of work equal to his very best. His scholarship is accurate and wide and the temper of the work perfectly fair to all sections of the Christian Church.

Beginning with the earliest times he traces the development of the Church through all its stages and in all its branches up to the present. Discussing the negotiations for union between the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches, he gives a full account of the different steps taken and the present status of the question.

He argues strongly that the differences which exist among the Churches do not necessarily imply lack of unity and that unity may exist without uniformity, and holds that the work of the Kingdom can be better done by the Churches remaining as they are at present. In this he is finding many to agree with him. But not many will agree with his contention that the Confession of Faith is an adequate basis for the Church of the future. Whether we agree with him or not, his book is worth reading and is to be reckoned with at the present juncture.

J. M.

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Patience! accomplish thy labor; accomplish thy work of affection!  
Sorrow and silence are strong, and patient endurance is God-like.  
Therefore accomplish thy labor of love, till the heart is made God-like,  
Purified, strengthened, perfected, and rendered more worthy of  
Heaven.

—H. W. Longfellow.

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It is the secret sympathy,  
The silver link, the silken tie,  
Which heart to heart and mind to mind  
In body and in soul can bind.

—Sir Walter Scott.