

making more effective a diversity of gifts and operations, this is the spirit of Christendom in this age. Not oneness of form or organization, but *one spirit* among all. In fact it is doubtful whether the unification of Evangelical Christendom will ever be brought about by any *artificial* consolidation of denominational interests.

But while we cannot believe in organic union, we plead for and are ready to respond to every effort in the direction of fraternal relations with our beloved sister denominations. To them we extend both hands, the hand of brotherly love and the hand of active co-operation in everything that makes for the peace and prosperity of Christ's kingdom, and the salvation of the world. Thus while each maintains his own identity and separate organization, we will work together, and wherever we meet or come in contact, instead of a clash let there be a clasp of loving hands, and thus working together, learn to walk together, and to keep step in the grand forward march of Christianity.

When the relations between Great Britain and the United States were strained because of the difficulties arising out of the "Northeastern Boundary" question, the following is said to have occurred: When the excitement was at its highest, a frigate of the American navy spied a large ship on the horizon, which turned out to be a first-class frigate of the British navy. By a remarkable coincidence, the commander of the British vessel had, a few days previous, been informed by the captain of a passing ship that the United States had declared war against Great Britain, and the commander of the American vessel had been informed in the same manner that Great Britain had declared war against the United States. Thus these two commanders thought that their two countries were at war with each other. Simultaneously the English and American flags went up, and the orders rang throughout both vessels to prepare for action and to double-shot the guns. The gunners stood at their guns; not a word was spoken; the silence of death itself reigned. At this critical moment a thought occurred to the American captain, and lifting his speaking trumpet to his lips he shouted: "Frigate ahoy!" "Halloo!" was the reply. "Any news from England?" "No!" came the stentorian voice from the other ship. "Where are you bound?" "Havana." There was a pause, when the British commander in turn called: "Frigate ahoy!" "Halloo!" replied the American. "Any news from the United States?" "No!" "Where are you bound?" "Havana!" There was excitement and a stir. The commanders wished each other a prosperous voyage, the men cheered, and each vessel took its own course for the *same port*. They subsequently saluted each other in the harbor of Havana and the two commanders supped together. They had both been misinformed. There was no war between the two countries.

The application I desire to make is obvious. Whenever the goodly ship of the Methodist Church and the goodly ship of the Evangelical Association meet, there need be no broadsides from double-shot guns. There is no war between us. Neither is it necessary that one ship empty its crew into the other, and then drift uselessly away, but whenever we meet we salute one another with words of good cheer and messages of love, as each again takes his course among "the ships that crowd the sea," for are we not bound for the same harbor and is not the sea wide enough for us all? And some day, the mission of each accomplished, the ships will meet, not in any port of earthly wealth or glory, but in the spacious harbor of heaven, filled with the songs of angels and melodious with the salutations of the redeemed, there to greet each other, and as we sit down to sup together recount the storms, and the perils, and the victories of the voyage.

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Die Committee über Statistik brachte ihren Bericht ein, welcher genehmigt wurde. (Siehe folgende Seite.)