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PROPER GROUND OF CHRISTIAN UNITY.

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It has been generally assumed in all ages of the church, that *uniformity of belief*, a oneness in speculative faith, is the only ground on which Christians can be one in brotherly fellowship and in the bond of peace.

We begin in the present discussion with a direct denial of this principle as unsound, unevangelical, and pernicious. Uniformity of speculative opinion ought not to be regarded as the bond of union and the ground of fellowship among Christians; and men by their speculative differences do not violate the essential oneness of Christianity.

Jesus Christ could not have required or expected unity of speculative opinion with regard to his revelation, for the good and sufficient reason that there cannot be any such unity. The history of opinions and the history of human nature, from the earliest times to the latest, prove that there cannot be any thing like uniformity of opinion on the subjects that admit in any degree of the exercise of reason. Such differences began under the ministry of the Apostles themselves. They sprang up immediately, in