

highest interests of truth and liberty may necessitate separation. In such cases the sin of schism lies exclusively with those who introduce error and corruption, or who practice servility. Division in the church is, however, an acknowledged evil. The visible unity of the Church is to be carefully aimed at and sought after. This is felt in all the sections of the great Presbyterian family. Within the last ten years we have seen no less than ten Presbyterian unions effected, and only one very small division. This shows a tendency which at once commands marked attention. In no other branch of the visible Church have such unions ever been effected. Nor is the movement exhausted. It is now developing its power most remarkably in the great centres of Protestantism, in Scotland and England, and the United States. The movement, we do not question, is from the Head of the Church. It looks as if He were mustering, unifying and consolidating His forces for the day of trial. We hope that ere long Presbyterians, as they are the most numerous, may also prove the most united, homogeneous and energetic of Protestant churches.

2. The second symptom to which we have to call attention is the tendency of other Protestant churches to approximate to Presbyterianism. Nearly all the branches of the Church of England in the colonies have of late years organized Synods in which the laity are largely represented. This is a homage to the Presbyterian principle all the more remarkable on account of the tenacity with which, on the other hand, prelacy in its chief features is still adhered to. Methodism has always had in it much of the Presbyterian element, and the tendency is to come still nearer our model. Independency has long waged a keen battle with Presbyterianism both in the Old World and in the New. But both in England and the United States there are constant attempts at supplying by other agencies the proper place of the Presbytery. There is a "hungering and thirsting" after the more "excellent way," especially when the virus of heresy has to be dealt with, or when a difficult case of discipline emerges.

In the English Church Congress lately held at Wolverhampton, several speakers pointed emphatically to the Presbyterian system, to the influence it concedes to the laity, to the equal power it places in the hands of the laity and of the clergy,—as just what the English establishment required. The congress itself was a homage to Presbyterianism and a tacit censure upon prelacy.

But in point of fact the Union movements among Presbyterian churches have done much to attract the attention of thoughtful men of other denominations—just as our dissensions and divisions served in other years to repel enquirers, and to make us a reproach and a by-word. Unity and visibility give great strength and influence for good to a pure church. We hope and believe that all Presbyterian unions shall be effected and continued in genuine evangelical purity and love.

We fear that in these Lower Provinces our own beloved Zion has not made that amount of progress which might fairly be expected. Why is it so? Our Home Missions and our Foreign Missions are suffering for lack of labourers. ONE alone can enable us to prosper as we ought. Let us go to Him in earnest for aid, lest the glorious cause committed to us should suffer in our hands. How sad, if while Presbyterianism is making marked and rapid progress in many other countries, it should among us be almost at a stand still!

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### SYMPATHY.

"Little children, let us love one another." Let us sympathize with one another, and be careful to remove every stumbling-block out of a brother's way. Be kind, loving and gentle to your brothers and sisters according to the flesh. Be loving, honest, and true towards your parents, and all your friends. The family, the fireside, the circle of closest friends, are but as it were a school in which you are to learn to love the Church, and every member of it. Be gentle, kind and true to your minister. His burdens are heavy, his cares very many, and his heart perhaps almost broken. Help him to