

may be one even as we are," (verse 21) "That they may all be one even as thou Father art in me and I in thee that they also may be in us," and for what purpose was this prayer made by Jesus? For exactly the same reason that we ought to have in these days of unbelief, viz: "*That the world may believe* that thou didst send me." Twice these words are used and it is our fault as Protestant Christians that there are so many scoffers.

Turning from the head of the Church to the Church itself under the Apostles we see different branches in different countries, but the one Church. When the great and burning question of the circumcision of the Gentiles came up and the Churches at Antioch, Syria and Cilicia, were stirred over it, there was no severance of the organic unity. We read in the XV of Acts, how wisely the Church at Jerusalem acted in non-essentials not enforcing uniformity at the expense of unity.

The decision as pronounced by the Apostle James is the magnificent outcome of a Catholic spirit in a matter far surpassing in its disturbing power anything that has since threatened the Church's peace, not excepting the "Arian heresy," when the youth of the Churches is considered. The effort of one section was to put a yoke on another section of the disciples; it was a determined effort, but the Spirit of Christ overruled bigotry and prejudice, and James voiced the conclusion of the council at Jerusalem in the words recorded in the 19th verse: "Wherefore my judgment is that we trouble not them which from among the Gentiles turn to God, but that we write unto them that they abstain from the pollution of idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood," and at the 22nd verse, the unity without uniformity stands proven as we read, "Then it seemed good to the Apostles and the Elders with the whole Church to choose men out of their company and send them to Antioch, with Paul and Barnabas, viz.: Judas called Barsabas and Silas chief men among the brethren;" and they wrote thus by them, "The Apostles and the Elder Brethren unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia greeting: For as much as we have heard that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words subverting your souls, to whom we gave no commandment; It seemed good unto us having come to one accord to choose out men and send them unto you." &c. &c. Here then is evidence that the united Church had within it that Spiritual elasticity that is everywhere conformable with the Spirit of Christ,