

## ECHOES OF LIFE

### The Need of a Christian League

The address given by Rev. Bishop Boyd Carpenter to the representatives of the different denominations in the Board of Trade rooms, Vancouver, was most interesting in its bearing on the possibilities of co-operation among the different branches of the Christian church. The Bishop emphasized the need for Christendom presenting a more united front in the Foreign Mission Field.

One cannot have even a short acquaintance with the denominational conditions prevailing in Western Canada itself without realizing that whatever our views may be of "Union," there is a crying need for more extensive co-operation among all the Christian churches. If that can be urged on the ground of preventing overlapping at home, it can be urged on that and on other even stronger grounds as affecting the Foreign Mission Fields. To quote the Bishop: "You have the whole world lying open to the influences of Christianity, and it is of the first importance that the influence of Christendom should be on the world around not a broken disunited influence."

### In the Year of Grace 1912

Of course the view expressed by Bishop Boyd Carpenter is one which must have forced itself upon the attention of all thinkers interested in the world work of the Christian Church; and it is to be hoped that all denominations will begin to give more attention to co-operation. Who knows but common interests abroad may lead to greater union at home?

That there is need for progress at home in the attitude of some denomina-

tions to others the writer has been reminded since hearing the Bishop's excellent address in Vancouver; and that in a way which, to one who has had some early training in connection with the church concerned is the more surprising and disappointing.

It happened that in a place not a hundred miles from Vancouver one denomination had arranged a social function following the ordination of a young minister, and that, with fraternal goodwill, the ministers of the other denominations were invited to attend. None of a certain denomination attended, and one of its ministers, better, it may be inferred, in candour and character than his church "form", is reported to have afterwards said to one concerned with the invitation sent to him: "I might have sent a letter that I had another engagement; but the fact is that the representatives of our Church in the place had a meeting and it was decided that we could not attend." The inference conveyed was that it was not in order with the wishes or the will of the authorities, or in harmony with the etiquette of their church.

### Better to Speak Out

Some may think that it is unwise to comment on this case, knowledge of which has reached us from an authentic source; but we think that nothing can be gained by ignoring the existence of such a spirit, or the possibility of any denomination countenancing such conduct.

Such an attitude is more than deplorable at the present day. Among Protestant bodies it is a sign of a spirit which suggests inexcusable