

united harmony, strong to penetrate the fastnesses of evil as yet unreached; making them echo and re-echo to the voice of truth; strong in its denunciation of common evil, strong in its praise of common good—what might not such a unity achieve for this poor, heart-sick world!

Let me be very plain; what I speak of is no visionary idea, but that evident, practical, wonder-working result of unity, of which our Saviour spoke when he said, "That they all may be one, that the world may believe that Thou has sent me," the united action of those who believe in Him.

O for the time when our talked of unity may come to a head in some practical movement!

When the Evangelical Alliance gave its impulse to unity, Dr. Chalmers was far-seeing enough to recognise, and bold enough to declare, "that if unity does not come to a head in practical movement against sin it must be utterly wasted." Of such unity of action the Bible Society is an example. God knows there lack not questions to-day that invite the united efforts of His people; strongholds of error that cannot, except by such efforts, be won for Christ.

To bridge the widening gulf between rich and poor, to protest against the crushing despotism of capital, to demand a purer press, a higher grade of politics—let the united Church of Christ but stand on grounds like these, clad in the robes of the Spirit of her Master who came to make peace. There are wise men in her fold; let her wisest unite with her most fearless, and let well-weighed utterances of protest be given forth—pronounced not by a voice here and there—but caught up and echoed by the united voice of all the multitude that love Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let the Church rebuke the rich who forget the claims of their fellows in hungry pursuit of riches; let her instruct and cheer the poor; let her champion the cause of the weak against the strong; when something like this is the outcome of our unity, let the kingdoms of the world tremble—ancient wrong shall totter—victories, not partial, but stupendously complete, shall be the Church's reward. She would then attract, as once she did, the toiling millions to the Saviour; would again draw mankind, as mankind has not been drawn since the very earliest ages; and she would do it because she was lifting up Christ to the gaze of mankind—because she was at least honestly, emulously striving to rise to the practical enjoyment of that glorious ideal that filled the vision of the soul of Paul—the unity of mankind in Christ. Neither as poor nor rich, male nor female, learned nor unlearned, as slave or free, would he consent to know them any longer. Then would cease our idolatrous homage of wealth,—our too common respect to fashion. Men would be constrained to remember that wealth and position are such dangerous possessions as to be only safely enjoyed in fullest partnership with Christ—as trusts most onerous—as offices in which and by which we may the more effectually minister to our fellows. To-day, alas, the Church has sunk to the meaner trade of heresy-hunting, as though a man did pursue a partridge on the mountains, while rampant beasts of prey, vile sins, great monopolies of evil, make havoc of men's souls and bodies, and openly at noon-day destroy their thousands.

God hasten the day when our unity—a unity even now consciously enjoyed by millions, at least in times of spiritual insight—may find its true expression in action—united action against the common foe.

God hasten the day, and—as the day-star proclaiming its nearness and certainty—God bless and prosper the Bible Society.