

SPECIAL  
ARTICLES

## Our Contributors

BOOK  
REVIEWSDR. CAMPBELL AND CHURCH  
UNION.

Editor Dominion Presbyterian:

I have just finished reading the thoughtful and carefully prepared pamphlet upon Church Union, from the pen of Dr. Robert Campbell, of Montreal.

It is quite unnecessary to say that anything which Dr. Campbell might feel called upon to give to the public would be worthy of the earnest attention of intelligent minds; but in this most valuable contribution to the discussion upon the proposed union of the great evangelized churches, venture to believe that Dr. Campbell has excelled himself; and has laid the whole church under an obligation to him for presenting the other view, and revealing the dangerous possibilities that threaten the too precipitate purpose of effecting Organic Union.

Without reflecting upon the intention of the most ardent advocates of Union, among whom I number many personal and most valued friends, I may be permitted to say that the churches are in grave danger of being stampered into a course of action, the results of which may prove a lasting impediment to the progress and spiritual development of Christ's kingdom. "Innervah for Union" is a sort of religio-political slogan; and any who cannot frame their lips to reiterate it, are regarded by some, at least, as ecclesiastical fossils, whose counsels are dark without knowledge, and without it were better to ignore.

Recognizing this danger, and courageously facing what is claimed (rightly or wrongly) to be the tide of public opinion, Dr. Campbell enters into an exhaustive examination of the difficulties attending the whole question of corporate union, and presents them with such clearness as surely must give pause to leaders in the movement.

It is not my purpose, Mr. Editor, to review this treatise, save very synoptically; but rather, if I may, through the columns of the Dominion Presbyterian, direct attention of your readers to the pamphlet referred to, published by the Foster-Brown Co., Limited, 2334 St. Catherine street, Montreal, and sold for 25 cents a study of which will prepare all members of the church to give voice and vote upon Union with a greater degree of intelligence than otherwise they would probably be able to do.

The two principal arguments in favor of corporate union, namely, first, the economizing of men and money, and second, the realizing of Our Lord's prayer for unity are critically examined.

With regard to the former of these it is frankly acknowledged that there has been an expenditure of men and of money in not a few of the villages and rural settlements, by the churches sending in two or three preachers where one would have sufficed." But it is also pointed out that these are the very situations where "Union" is most likely to be inoperative. "The irritations resulting from rivalry, do not give promise of easy evalescence. It would be, of course, within the power of an United Church, to say 'Come together, and work together, or we will leave you to your own resources.' But even if that were possible, would it be right?"

This is an aspect of the subject, which I believe, not many have considered. Religious convictions for the most part are intense. Any attempt at coercion will at once be stoutly resisted, and the very localities where the desiderated economy is sought to be illustrated, will become the nuclei of other and independent denominations.

Moreover, this argument as it applies to the Home Mission work of the church is fairly met and abundantly answered. All are agreed as to Home Missions being an integral part of the church's activ-

ity. Regarded from a patriotic or religious point of view, "it is of the utmost consequence that the pioneer settlers, a large proportion of whom are young men, perhaps not yet confirmed either in their convictions or their habits, should be followed by the safeguarding influences of the Gospel, in order that the truth sown in their memories and treasured in their consciences, as taught them in the homes, Sabbath schools and churches, in which they were trained, should not wholly perish."

But what is to be the base of supply whence are to come the means of meeting all this necessity, if not the already organized congregations? And hence the very pertinent and self-evident statement that "the work of the ministry in the organized congregations throughout Canada, including the many now in the Great West, is out of sight more important than any or all of the Mission schemes or other undertakings which the people are called upon to maintain.

One hesitates to make the statement in so broad and positive terms, lest he may be regarded as wanting in true missionary zeal. "Beginning at Jerusalem" is the nota bene of our Lord, who knew, as all His thoughtful followers must know, that the measure of the church's efficiency in any department of her work, is her active loyalty to Him in doctrine and polity. It will not do to sidetrack the question as to what the church is, and is doing in fact, for what in our opinion she may be able to accomplish, if she were organized upon a different basis.

In a very important section of his pamphlet, the contention of which is "Success Unlikely," Dr. Campbell very forcefully defends our present system of operation in Home Mission fields, as more rational and effective than the plan contemplated by promoters of corporate union. He says: "Does not the enthusiasm, honest enthusiasm it is admitted, of those who contemplated the triumph of any church which might result of the parties to the present negotiations, over all the obstacles lying in the way of an absorption of the elements in the mixed population of the West after all savor of taking the Lord's cause under man's protection, and of trusting to human plans, as would be admissible in the case if the three churches should abandon the methods which they essentially hold to be best, for some modified method on which they can agree, the success of which is problematical? Those who demand a reconstructed church, and argue that the new combination of forces thereby to be secured for meeting the emergency in the mission fields of the Great West, have lost faith in the churches as they are at present constituted, not because they are not Scriptural, but because they do not seem to be able to furnish the agencies required for the great task assumed to be set before them."

It may be that unionists have not considered the severity of the strictures implied in so radical a denaturement from the use and wont of the church, a method that is in line with that adopted by Our Lord in the beginning, and that has been and is being blessed in all our pioneer work.

The second and seemingly more cogent argument (although it must be characterized as puerile, of not worse) put forward by some (not all) advocates of the unity of His people, in likeness to the unity of the Father and the Son, demands an organic union of the churches.

If this were the interpretation of the passage in John 17:21-22, it is clear that opponents of union are chargeable with violation of the divine ideal, and of God's final purpose. But when one turns to the

true exegesis, that exegesis which is necessary in order to be in harmony with many of the sayings of Christ, and the teachings of the apostles, it is difficult to repress the thought that either an unpardonable ignorance on the one hand or a purpose to secure a snap verdict from the people on the other, has prompted not a few advocates of union to cite this passage as an evidence that Christ desiderated corporate union of the churches.

It will be worth while for anyone who has been misled by this so-called argument, to read carefully Dr. Campbell's treatment of it.

But I fear, Mr. Editor, that I have already trespasssed upon your space. If what I have written shall have the effect of bringing Dr. Campbell's pamphlet before the thoughtful consideration of the church, my purpose in writing will have been accomplished.

Ingersoll.

E. R. HUTT.

## CREDIT TO PRESBYTERIANISM.

The death of Professor Thomas Smith, D.D., LL.D., the last survivor of the disputation assembly of the Scotch church, 1843, ought to call the attention of certain enemies of the church to the character of men found in its pulpit. Dr. Smith was licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh in 1828. He was one of those evangelized ministers lately characterized by the president of a secondary college in America as "only fitted to comfort a few sisters weaker than themselves." Lord Kelvin said of Professor Smith that he was one of the finest arithmeticians produced by the nineteenth century, and at 78 years of age he lectured before the British Association upon "the extension of the logarithm tables to the twenty-second or twenty-third place." After he had long passed his threescore years and ten, he labored upon a mathematical treatise which was left incomplete at his death at 80, and English scientists are searching diligently for a man competent to complete it. He translated into English works of importance from the German and the French; gave to his country a new translation of Bacon's "Novum Organum," and edited fifty volumes of the writings of the Puritan divines. Yet his original works would constitute a library by themselves. And withal, he was a foreign missionary for years in India; a home missionary in the slums of Glasgow, and a volunteer nurse during epidemics of both cholera and small-pox. In India he conducted religious services as chaplain of the Gordon Highlanders under the immediate fire of the sepoy. In his youth he navigated a ship from Madras to Calcutta when the sailors were found to be drunk and incompetent. And he died as he had lived, a simple, cheerful believer in Jesus Christ and the gospels which reveal Him.

## THE GREAT NORTH COUNTRY.

Nimrod was a mighty hunter, but had he hunted in the "Temagami" region he would have been a mightier one. Nimrod hunted for glory, but Temagamians hunt for game. Those Indians who made the first canoe of birch bark long ago, were our greatest benefactors. The children of these Indians know the canoe and they know how to use it, and if you will go to Temagami this summer they will paddle your canoe in their own superb way. They will be the best guides you ever had. Students who camp in summer along the Temagami lakes are able to do two years' work in one. Finest of fishing and hunting. Easy of access by the Grand Trunk Railway System. For information and beautiful descriptive publication sent free apply to G. T. Bell, Montreal.