

perhaps, than since the Reformation—on the doctrine of the Church, and, by consequence, false conceptions of the way in which the divisions of Christendom must be healed, it behooves us to testify as emphatically as possible to the teaching of Scripture respecting the unity in the Lord of all believers, and the duty and privilege of unreserved mutual recognition on the part of the Churches.

How greatly we should rejoice to see the visible Church reflect more perfectly the unity which, of necessity, belongs to the Church invisible! And if any progress is to be made towards that happy result there must, first, be a true conception of the Church's essential nature and characteristics, as well as an increase of the love which longs for closer fellowship with all who are children of the same Father and heirs of the same inheritance. Whether the visible union of the Church shall ever be completely effected on earth it may be impossible to predict, but it is not the less our duty prominently to hold forth the true idea of the Church, as embracing "all who profess the true religion." I am sure of this, that our bond in the Alliance, far from lessening our interest in Churches not Presbyterian, has an opposite tendency, and that the tone of our proceedings in these Councils is consistent