

'We are all Going the same Way.'

ONCE upon a time there was a traveller who had a long and perilous journey before him. The night came on dark and stormy, and still he was far from his home. Trudging through the streets of a little market town, with the wind howling round the corners and the rain beating in his face, the poor man longed to take shelter for the night. He feared to continue such a journey alone. He thought with a sigh of the bleak desolate road, six miles in length, which lay between him and his destination. A stern sense of duty, however, compelled him to go on. So on he went.

Scarcely had this traveller got away from the town when he heard voices hailing him from behind: 'Stop a bit, friend! We are all going the same way, and maybe you'll be glad of our company, as we shall be of yours. Folks as is bound for the same place had best wauk together and be sociable.' The traveller, as you may imagine, gladly closed with the offer. The farmers, for such they proved to be, knew the road a deal better than he did; and in their pleasant company the man soon forgot both the perils and the length of the journey. In due time he reached home safely, and received from his anxious friends a warm and hearty welcome.

This is a simple story. But it is enough for our purpose. That the traveller showed only common sense in accepting the invitation of the farmers we shall readily admit. Banded together on a journey, we have surely a greater sense of security than if we were alone. The highwaymen dare not then attack us; and when our footsteps flag we have those who will cheer us on. Only the most churlish would at such a time insist on walking separately.

Unfortunately in matters of religion, however, we do not seem to hold this opinion. While constantly saying one to

another, 'We are all going the same way,' we forthwith proceed to take different paths. I am afraid our words are not quite sincere, and that what we really mean is, only we are ashamed to say so, that we are not going the same way, and that we think it better to keep to ourselves.

If we Christians are not going the same way there can be no question that we ought to be. It must be prejudice or selfishness that prevents us making together for what is our common goal. I want you to see with me that these religious divisions of ours are both foolish and wrong. And further, that they are quite unnecessary.

Yes, foolish, and wrong, and unnecessary.

1. First, foolish. Ask any experienced military officer which army is likely to win on a field of battle—that which is split up into many rival companies, each acting independently under the orders of its own officer, jealous of its neighbour's success, and intent only on achieving fame for itself—or that which is formed into a compact whole, the entire force acting together in obedience to one commander-in-chief?

Christians are a great army with a mighty warfare to be waged. Yet not so great that they can afford to set aside the thought that unity is strength. Or shall we liken them to a little caravan crossing a vast desert? Any moment a troop of wild Bedouins may sweep down and overwhelm them with havoc and destruction. Wise people group themselves together before venturing to cross the sandy waste.

Now, at the present time the whole Christian world does not equal in point of numbers one half of the heathen. It is wholesome for us to remember that we are still in a minority. The battle has yet to be fought, if the earth is to be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. We need the strongest and most united army that can be mustered to win