

II. IS UNION NEEDED ?

Whether we look at Christendom or at the great non-Christian civilizations, it is undeniable that the world needs a revived Christianity and common action on the part of the Church.

In France, the name of God is being erased from the public buildings and from the school books. In Italy, the spirit that denies the supernatural is also predominant. The claims of Christianity are ignored or rejected with scorn. In Germany, the Church is little more than a government police. In Britain, things are better, and faith is a living power among, at least, the Dissenters in Russia. But taking Europe as a whole, the only force that seems to be recognized is that which is material. Consequently, millions of men are armed with the costly machinery of modern war, and even in peace industry groans under the intolerable burden. Intelligent Buddhists visit Christian countries to ascertain how far the religion of Christ is a reality, and they return home to tell of the horrors of our great cities, of the mass of hopeless pauperism, of the strife of labor and capital becoming daily more threatening and better organized, of the Churches touching grave questions with the little finger, and wrestling with might and main over points of ritual, tradition, or selfish ecclesiasticism, while all the time the very existence of society is threatened by projects of anarchism. The Church of Christ, alas ! it must be confessed, has not delivered the peoples at all, neither have the inhabitants of the earth fallen.

What of the spiritual condition of the country we know and love best, our own Canada ? There is much to be thankful for, but whosoever penetrates beneath the surface can not be satisfied. Churches are well attended, activity and liberality are manifested in connection with Church agencies. But does a spirit of profound devotion to high Christian ideals and fervent love prevail among us ? Do we not rather find materialism of life among the people generally, and among professing Christians zeal for the sect rather than zeal for Christ. The end of these things is death. Out of them comes nothing heroic in thought or life ; no poetry, no psalms and hymns to lift the souls of men to the gate of Heaven ; no prophetic utterances from wide outlook and deep insight into the secret of the Lord ; no discernment of the signs of the times enabling us to see what Christ would have us do in our own day ; no acts of high endeavor and unplacarded sacrifices for the lowliest that thrill a