

Let us remember that Christ has prayed that we might be one, and when He spoke of the unity He explained, "Even as Thou, Father, art in me and I in Thee." Could any unity be more clear and indivisible than this? and it is this unity that we wish to see. It is this unity which we wish to have felt.

And, to conclude, the Holy Ghost has His mission, and among the many works of the Holy Spirit is to testify of Jesus Christ. And that Holy Spirit is with us. His working is with us. I am not going to touch upon those questions which are about to arise. I will merely conclude with this, that the Holy Ghost is seeking as He ever has sought to advance the glory of the Redeemer, and in advancing the glory of the Redeemer He must and ever will be willing to promote this great work of creating unity amongst the various sections of the Church of Christ. Let us pray, let us work, but above all let us believe that it will be accomplished.

REV. DR. SUTHERLAND said: I am sure that we all feel deeply impressed with the sole unity and the importance of this gathering, a gathering which in its composition and its purpose has scarcely a parallel in the history of the Christian Church, and I think we may regard it as an indication of that growing spirit of unity and brotherly regard which is being manifested in the Christian world. It has not been an uncommon thing in the past to formulate excuses, if not reasons, for divisions amongst Christians, which perhaps the deepest dictates of conscience could not very well justify, but I think we have all seen that in recent times there has been a growing disposition to look at this matter more in the light of the Master's teaching and less in the light of human expediency. I think we must all have felt this, that within the memory of men now living the attitude of different Christian bodies has changed, and has changed for the better. I suppose most of us can remember a time when it would not be speaking too strongly to say that the attitude of various Christian bodies towards each other was almost one of antagonism. That gave place to a spirit of general toleration. I think to-day that it is deepening into a feeling of mutual appreciation, and that there is a disposition rather to find in how many things we agree than in how many things we differ. I am sure we all feel the force of the words spoken by the Bishop of Huron, and if this movement be of man it will of course come to nought, and the sooner it comes to nought the better if it is really of man, but if it comes of God then we cannot but feel how grave are our responsibilities and how deep is the solemnity of this hour. I feel persuaded personally that this Conference, if it be conducted with the brotherly spirit with which it has begun, must result in good to the cause of the Church of Christ at large. Just how far we can advance few of us know as yet. Perhaps no one is quite prepared

with definite proposals. I feel that if we can exchange discussion of this matter there will be a growth of the spirit without which no union would be of any good. If we can promote that spirit we shall have accomplished a great deal. I feel that this is the spirit with which we have come together here, and I may assure this Conference on the part of the body I represent that we are prepared to maintain a prayerful attitude that the Holy Spirit may guide us, and prepared to follow the leadings of God's providence in whatever direction those leadings may be, and I join you and all the other members of this Conference in the prayer that a stronger bond may exist between us than when we came together.

REV. PRINCIPAL CAVEN said: It is not necessary that I should say anything more than express my very hearty assent to the words that have been used by the Bishop of Huron and by Dr. Sutherland. Of course, if any one thinks that the divided state is better than unity, he would take very little interest in this movement. Of course, there are men who say this, and we have often heard the expression used of various regiments and departments of service in an army all united to constitute the army, and making that army more efficient than if it were one body. I venture to think this is a false conception of the Christian Church, and that no one who has entered very thoroughly into the words of our Lord's intercessory prayer would be satisfied with such a condition of the Church. Whether it would be on the whole better that the entire Christian Church all over the world should be closely united in government so as to constitute, in a very direct sense, an Ecumenical Church, is a question I do not need to answer; but I am sure of this, that it is not the right thing, it is unseemly and improper, that we should have had organizations of Christians on the same territory all pretending to represent the Church of Christ. I do not desire to commit any member to my own view, but the conviction I express is very deeply engraven on my own mind. Therefore, I think it is a wise and proper thing to seek after unity in the Church of Christ, and I cannot doubt that the spirit of our blessed Lord, the spirit of love and concord, has prompted this movement. The movement was commenced by the Church of England, but the response which has come from the Methodist Church and Presbyterian Church, has not been tardy, and it has been entirely cordial. I think the Bishop of Huron has struck the keynote of our proceedings; that he has not only spoken as one should do in a devotional meeting, but that he has really pointed out the way we should really consider this question of union if any progress is to attend it. Our union must be founded on Christ. It would be very unfortunate, I venture to say, if, at this our first meeting, a controversial spirit should be in the ascendant. We are all