

The Message of the Disciples of Christ 23

The prayer of Jesus is: "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." There can be but one interpretation of that prayer and that is that the normal condition of Christianity is one flock, and therefore denominationalism as we have it to-day is an abnormal product and incompetent to carry out the program of Christ. It is an idle dream for the Greek or the Roman Catholic or any one of the Protestant communions to think of conquering the world for Christ. It is against Scripture, against history and against reason. Talk about the conquest of China, India and Japan, we are not taking our own home land for Christ, for the combined Christian membership is not a third of our population, and many of these are only nominal Christians. The chief explanation of this condition is found in the divisions of our American Christianity. The world has wearied of our strife, so that while the Church has been trifling away its time with its shibboleths, socialism and kindred movements have been rising in Europe and America seeking to find a basis for the brotherhood of mankind, just as the inertia of the Church of the sixth and seventh centuries offered an opportunity for the rise of Mohammedism or anything else with its panacea for human discord.