

The Protestant churches have grown up in different countries under varying conditions, the product, in many cases, of political as well as religious causes, and the result has been the establishment of national churches, as in England, Scotland, Germany and other parts of Europe, with their vision and outlook influenced, and in some measure circumscribed, by political and national considerations. These national churches have in many cases been divided, and the result is that Protestantism has not had that sense of solidarity, that consciousness of unity, from whence comes the imperial vision, nor has there been established such practical co-operation among the various branches of the Protestant Church as would make possible the realization of this vision.

Within the past half century the spirit of nationality, that indefinable consciousness of unity which influences the development of national life, has brought together the various sections and races of the Italian people until there is now Italian unity. This spirit of nationality has resulted in the establishment of the German Empire. It is this spirit which helps to bind together the various parts of the British Empire. A spirit different in kind, but producing somewhat similar results, "the spirit of love and of a sound mind," has been at work among the various Protestant churches of Christendom, and there is coming to the Protestant churches this sense of unity, of oneness; and with this sense of unity is coming this imperial vision and the conviction that these churches can unitedly make this vision a reality. The conviction is becoming stronger every day that if "the kingdoms of this world are to become the empire of our God and of his Christ," the churches