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Managing Editor and Publisher
With an Advisory Editorial
Committee of Literary
Men and Women

The Twentieth Century Spectator of Britain's Farthest West
For Community Service—Social, Educational, Literary and Religious; but Independent of Party, Sect or Faction
"BE BRITISH" COLUMBIANS!

VOL. 24

FEBRUARY, 1925

No. 1

EDITORIAL NOTES

WHILE OCCASIONS FOR QUESTION RE CHURCH UNION may increase, it is worthy of note that the conditions created are already calling forth the exercise of a fuller self-sacrificing spirit, and that not merely in the matter of money—which is usually a consideration relative to assured income. The doubling of the amount of contributions will likely be common to members of both sides. But we learned of a case the other day in which one who must be well spent with his connection with educational work during six days of the week, had volunteered to carry on a young men's class on Sundays. That is a real social service, though there may be a danger of overtaxing one's strength.

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THE VOTING DIVISION of the Presbyterian Church in Ontario as reported to the date of this writing, cannot be held other than disappointing to the Union Cause. The proportion for and against in that province is such that no one-sided or misleading statement need be issued by either party. The facts are sufficiently illuminative and suggestive, and do not reflect altogether happily on the judgment of the Presbyterian Unionist leaders.

* * *

IN A VANCOUVER NEWS-PAPER on the other hand a figured report appeared which made out that a majority of those voting up to a certain date were actually against Union. This statement did not mention—what was obviously the case?—that the figures given in the "for Union" columns did not include the membership of the congregations who had gone into the Union un-animously. Such tactics remind us of the deplorable pamphlet reflecting on the Free Church of Scotland which some ill-advised Unionists circulated in Vancouver—if not also elsewhere.

* * *

IN CONTROVERSY some men are tempted to care less for facts than

for gaining the ends at which they aim. When, as in this case, the difference happens to be concerning forms of Church government or the amalgamation of "denominations," the same fallible human nature is evidenced on both sides. Still to many the truth in religion after which they grope, strive or yearn, is too vital and far-reaching for them to be content to get heated over the form or letter while the spirit of christianity is in any measure ignored. Souls continually subject to intellectual questioning regarding "the mystery of Godliness" and many phases of the Christian revelation accepted by all the churches alike, may not be so greatly exercised as to the name or membership numbers of any particular "Denomination" they attend. For they recognize that, excessively limited as may be their understanding of them, the Personality and Truth behind that mystery and revelation and individual relation thereto, are far more important than man's evolving experiments in forms of Church government or even his tables or statements of beliefs—more or less clearly paraphrased from the Bible. . . .

* * *

PREDESTINATION, and the way in which one exponent dealt with it recently in Vancouver, deserves comment, but before giving space to any such debatable subject, perhaps it is

in place to mention here the unexpected, but all the more welcome compliments passed to us in connection with the references to Church Union in the January Magazine, not only in these editorial notes, but also by the wayside Philosopher. To our surprise men of some prominence on different sides in this question thought fit to introduce the subject—by writing or vocally—and to express appreciation. Naturally, like other humans, we value compliments, especially when they are obviously sincere and founded on the independent judgment of men of large experience.

* * *

TOWARDS "SITTING ON THE FENCE", we are not disposed by either disposition or ambition. So that the compliments did not result from any attempt to "please" the advocates of either side. We hope, therefore, that if each side in turn finds notes or comments "per contra" (here or by the Wayside Philosopher) they will—whether they condemn or commend—give us the credit they themselves like to get, namely, of seeking to be true to the light we have.

* * *

IF MINISTERIAL FRIENDS surprised us, one senior layman in particular excelled in the form of his encouraging comment. . . We do not wish to magnify the compliments,

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