

ble, that is definite, that is positive, that is fixed, and that does not infringe in the least degree upon a true and enlightened Christian union (hear, hear, and applause). There was a time when semi-barbarous nations made war, when it was a crowd that rushed upon the battle field. It was a rabble mixed, mingled and confused. Each brought what weapons he could, each doing his individual best. Civilized warfare has changed all that; and we have the artillery in one place, and the infantry in another, and the cavalry in a third, and one-tenth of the force thus graded and distributed does better the work than used to be done by the untrained and promiscuous multitude; and the Christian host is not less one host now because its regiments and detachments and battalions and departments are finding each its own place, and each its own work, upon the great battle field where truth and error, light and darkness, are the continual contestants. Whence do we get the inspiration of this Christian union? Why, from that book. It is divine truth applied to the human soul by the power of the Spirit that vanquishes self, and bad denominationalism is only selfishness working along religious lines. It is the truth of the Spirit of God applied to the human heart by that same spirit that brings us into sympathy with Christ the King and Head and so into sympathy with God's true sympathy; and so if we want to spread, diffuse, deepen, purify and direct this Christian union it is well for us to spread the Bible and bring it into living contact with continually increasing multitudes of our fellow-men.

So I venture to think in the next place that a good tendency of our times is towards humanity. There are different reasons perhaps that may be suggested for that increasing humanity. I should be willing to admit that science has done something in that direction, with intelligent prosecution of the study of ethnology. We have been made to understand more and more clearly the many links that bind the tribes and nations of men together. How much we have in common with every race and country all over the world in our sentiments, in our speech, in our habits, in our traditions, in our usages as well as in our needs and aspirations, ethnology has done something to demonstrate; and I for one, from the Christian point of view, am always prepared to welcome with gratitude whatever can be done for humanity by the labours of the scientists, no matter what name they bear, and no matter what field they choose upon which to labour. But in this respect science has only led us through another force that has been in operation all the time, as the Bible has been in the minds and hearts of men. "God hath made of one blood all nations of men that dwell on the face of the earth," and so we are all brethren, and a basis is made for a true and real and intelligent humanity. And in how many ways that humanity has been showing itself; never before were such wise and generous provision for the care of the poor and needy; never before was hospital accommodation in so effective a form as it is at the present time; never before were there so many well-organized agencies for caring for the diseased, the sick, the insane, the destitute, the tempted, the helpless; never before had we so many Christian institutions; the truth is I begin for myself—I don't speak now on behalf of any one else here—I begin for myself to fear that the Christian Church is in a little danger of carrying material benevolence to an extreme so that it is in danger of being abused and perverted. I take a single illustration. In the region where I was brought up, in common with many of you, I think there was a generally understood sentiment of this kind that a workman, no matter how limited his wages, ought to endeavour to economize a little; save a little; put a little by; save something against a rainy day, so that if, for example, it pleased God to send sickness upon him, without the loss of his self-respect he could be able to take care of himself; that, I say, used to be the feeling in a good degree. Well, I hope it is not so with you here in Canada; but I know