

ledged essentials may be found on which all may unite.

The Church of England did a great service to real Christian unity when it issued the four-fold basis of union from the Lambeth Conference in 1889. I should be glad to have every denomination follow so good an example. It would help to bring matters to a definite issue and save us from loss of time and energy in discussing glittering generalities.

This four-fold basis has now been before the Christian world four years. It has been well discussed, and I think it must be obvious to all that it cannot be the basis of the desired union. The "Historic Episcopate," with all which that implies, rules out the Non-conformists. The so-called Apostles' Creed may be well enough as a "Baptismal Symbol" and the Nicene Creed may be accepted "as the sufficient statement of the Christian faith," but I fancy a great many will sympathise with Principal Cavan who is reported to have stated, at the recent Toronto Conference on Christian Union, that "he was not willing to say that the Church should find its basis in the first, second or third centuries, nor that any such doctrine should be pressed upon the convictions of any of the brethren unless it could be proved by the Word of God."

With this judgment I perfectly agree. Let us, if we want union, lay aside the

Nicene and every other creed, and get back to the essentials of our faith, not as these are recorded in any mere human symbols ancient or modern but in those Holy Scriptures which we all confess are able to make us wise unto salvation through the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Now when we do this we shall probably find that some of the things for which we have contended are not essentials, that we have exalted as tests of fellowship beliefs and practices which neither Christ nor his Apostles dreamed of placing in such a position. We shall find that with Christ reverence for the truth counted for more than mere knowledge of the truth. He called men to be his disciples—learners—and he accepted all those who sincerely and with a whole heart were willing to follow his life and teaching. The creed of his Church was formulated by Peter when he said "Thou art the Christ the son of the living God." Upon this rock Christ said he would build his Church, and in harmony with this the Apostles received into Christian fellowship all who believed in Christ and consecrated themselves to live his life by an open confession. This was the basis of union in the Apostolic Church. Instead of this the Lambeth Conference proposes a fourfold basis comprising, Scriptures, the Creeds, the Sacraments and the Historic Episcopate, I would go back to the New Testament and put Christ in the place of these. Let loy-