

sustained and enforced by his infinite purity and power, wisdom and love. Who would not return to such a father? Who would not be reconciled to such a parent? Who would not trust and love and serve and honour the absolutely perfect Head of the whole family in heaven and earth?

THIS IS THE ERA OF CIVIL UNION. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Eastern Canada and Western are now confederate, with one common legislature and one common executive, and with the one common name of Canada. From the seaboard to Lake Superior, we are all now embarked in the same political vessel. Four millions are now confederate as brethren, for mutual sympathy and cordial coöperation.

But there is a unity that infinitely transcends this. We may be joined to Christ; we may be one with God. All that believe in Christ Jesus, all the saved and sanctified, are one. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us." This oneness with God is possible because his dominion over men is *restorative*. This is its great aspect and characteristic. God's government is primarily conservative and ultimately retributive, but is intermediately, in the world, redemptive and recuperative. "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." He is the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in. He is the good Physician, whose hands apply the healing balm, and by whose benignant and infallible skill the deadliest disease is healed, and the most enfeebled are inspired with gigantic and immortal strength.

From union with God arises Christian union with each other, and the duty of cherishing and developing it. Happily, we have ample facilities for this in the constitution and course of the Bible Society, the Young Men's Christian Association, and the Evangelical Alliance. The last is specifically the society for developing the oneness of believers. It has sprung from the brotherhood of British Christians and has stood the test of many a strain, as well as consoled and gladdened many Christian hearts. Let us not be politically one and religiously disjoined; let us not disparage or conceal our Christian unity, but make manifest the faith and hope and love that vitally unite us.

"One family, we dwell in him,
One church above, beneath;
Though now divided by the stream,
The narrow stream of death."

THIS IS THE ERA OF POLITICAL EXTENSION. The field, the national or political field, of our sympathies and projects, our expatriation and action, is no longer confined to Upper and Lower Canada, but extends eastward to the Atlantic ocean, and bids fair, ere long, to extend westward to the Pacific, over the Red River Settlement and British Columbia, and northward towards the Pole. If the thoughts of men are widened by the circuit of the suns, surely our thoughts and aims, our affectional and efforts, must be widened by so great an expansion of our political sphere.