

22 The Message of the Disciples of Christ

that runs beyond all definitions and systems of theology, and he only knows it who practices it.

In the apostolic conception, schism in the body of Christ, as is expressed in present denominationalism, stands by the side of adultery, drunkenness and idolatry and, writing to the Galatians, Paul boldly declared : "I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." It was a clear-cut issue, and the apostle sought to bring up the conscience of the early Church on schism by the side of its conscience on the grosser sins.

The Roman Catholic Church maintained union in part by the sacrifice of liberty, while Protestantism maintained liberty at the sacrifice of union, but the time has come when both union and liberty can be maintained in the Church of God, and the history of nations is proving it. The Church to-day has a conscience on adultery, drunkenness and idolatry and would not for a moment tolerate the practicing of these sins on the part of the ministry and the people. In recent years there has been a rapidly growing conviction in all communions that union is better than division and when the whole Church has a conscience on love among Christians, and it is bound to come, division will be as impossible then as an adulterous, drunken and idolatrous ministry and Church is impossible now.