

efforts to make Him known to all the children of men? Is there not a Christian character on earth as distinct from character that is not Christian as Christian nations and races are from the rest of mankind? Doubtless each denomination through its peculiar methods of training produces a type of character that is peculiarly its own. It is not difficult to distinguish a Presbyterian from a Methodist, or a Baptist from an Episcopalian. But with all these differences of species there is a common genus. There is a Christian character common to them all, the fruit of the Spirit of Him who dwells in them all. And His Spirit is continually bringing Christians of different denominations nearer to one another, by the power of a common love and increasing loyalty to their common Lord. His great prayer may not be fully answered, but it is being answered, and because Jesus said, "I know Father that Thou hearest Me always," we may well believe that all of His own will yet "be perfected into one." That which has already been attained may not be the Christian Union that many desire, but it is something a great deal better,—it is Christian Unity, or an approach to it.

III. *An Organic Union of Christian churches to be permanent and valuable must be based upon unity of conviction.* Organic union is good, but it is not the greatest good. Liberty is better, Truth is better, and until Christians can agree in the Truth as it is in Jesus, no schemes for organic union can or will succeed. Much that is said and written upon this general topic seems to overlook this. No sooner is the question of organic union opened than there is talk of mutual concessions and compromises. No one seems to suppose that all Christians can be brought to agree in everything; it is assumed that on some points they can only agree to disagree, and so each one looks about him to see what his brother can give up and (in his opinion) ought to give up. The best that is dreamed of is that the churches should come together as some of them do at a union evangelistic meeting, with a tacit understanding of agreement in the truths essential to salvation, but holding all others in abeyance, agreeing for the sake of presenting a solid front to the world to say nothing about them.

But supposing such a union were formed and all the evangelical churches of Protestantism were merged in one great organization which should tolerate as many differences within itself as does the Roman Catholic Church, would our Lord's prayer for unity be any more fully answered than it now is? Not a whit. "That they all