

tered vote, allowing him freedom of speech. I believe the Congregational to be the best of all the churches, but not for worlds would I have our Congregationalism universal. The many sects of Protestantism are the strength of Protestantism. Each may find a church to suit him—for every reasonable man there is a home prepared. Not any sect would I abolish. Well yes, one perhaps—that of the Plymouth Brethren. Men cannot be united under an institution any more than under a creed.

How can they be united then? What is the real ground of brotherhood? This—*faith*. We shall find unity in sentiment, but not in science. What was Christ's idea of unity? As far as I can find it, this—a state of heart in which all men should experience love, sympathy, and a co-operative benevolence. They were to be one in love to God and love to all mankind—they were to join in works of charity, making all their life a blessing to all the world. And that is the only possible unity; it is the only true unity, for *love* is the universal solvent. When men are actuated by the sentiment of goodness; when they desire not only to be good but to do good, they will come together, that with united force they may carry out their lofty purpose. Difficulties which had stood up as separating barriers, will disappear as snow before the breath of spring. Differences in modes of thought and forms of worship will not be hindrances, but only diverse ways of rendering service unto God. Love creates a sympathy so deep, so tender, and yet so strong, that all doubts will be solved and all difficulties mastered. And love is the universal composite; it fuses all things, and makes the many into one. Everything it touches gets transfigured. It melts down the hard, it rounds the angular, it beautifies the ugly, it uplifts and sublimates the ignoble. *Love*—that is our ground of unity. We are not going to unite the different Churches; we are not going to be united to others by agreement in matters of doctrine and of form; we shall only be made one by all exercising the Christianity good men feel in the heart. The Christ in us is always the same to each soul that feels the holy presence. There is a common Christianity. but it is that which burns in the hearts of pious men. And that unity I shall seek to promote. In Christ's name I will join any Church, or all the Churches, in trying to do the people good. My word and my work may be worth but a little, but both shall be ungrudgingly given in the interests of peace and concord. I shall

esteem none the less because they differ from me in doctrines or forms of worship. I walk according to my light; they walk according to theirs. We will each esteem the other and join in works of love. I am sure of this—I may be wrong—and I am sure of this—those who differ from me may be wrong. What then? why generosity on both sides, and mutual sympathy.

But let me say this—very briefly, but most emphatically—against the church which here is dominant and despotic, and is using its power to hinder the prosperity of this country—is keeping down the people in ignorance, and overriding the minority—against that church, not because of its creed so much, but because of its tyranny, I shall wage war. It may be of small use, but I shall have done my duty. I am an Englishman—subject of an English government—and I know not how to assume a craven policy that truckles to a powerful majority. I will give to each man his right. I ask no more for myself; but *that* I must have.

And now one word to the church. Friends, this church has had an honorable past. It has done good and lasting work. We must do more yet—we must fill a greater place. But to do that we must be united—we must be filled with a burning enthusiasm. We exist, not for ourselves mainly, but for the good of others. If, being filled with the spirit of Jesus Christ, we do good works; if our prayers are earnest—if our praises are flung to heaven to flower in the sky, then this Church will be as a place of springing fountains to many a thirsty soul. While I preach Christ in the pulpit, you must preach Christ in the street and the home. Your good lives will do a thousandfold more than my best sermons. My brothers and my sisters, I pledge you in the faithful love of the gospel of Christ—I pledge you in the name which is above every name, honored on earth by prostrate obedience and honored in heaven by undying song—I pledge you in the name of Him who is Father and Mother of mankind, to mutual sympathy and generosity, to kindness of judgment and of speech, to the exercise of that charity which covers a multitude of faults and never faileth—I pledge you to earnest and constant working for the good of men and the glory of God. Here, in the shadow of the Cross, in presence of that infinite and unutterable love, let us clasp hands in token of our brotherhood, and our devotion to Him who is the Prince of Peace, and the King of Glory, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.