

PREFACE

It is but right that a few words should be said in reference to the subject of this book, and the method adopted for the presentation of that subject.

The subject is that of Church Union in Canada. For some years this has been so far in the field of practical politics that a definite Basis of Union for the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational Churches has been presented to these churches, and is now being earnestly discussed. What is to be the immediate outcome of this discussion no one can at this moment foresee, but the very existence of it is an evidence of serious dissatisfaction with the old order of things. There is a feeling, wide-spread and deep-seated, that our Protestant life needs to be reorganized in order to express the growing catholicity of spirit, and to grapple more efficiently with the problems presented by our modern life. There are at least three definite objects to be secured by such a reorganization—the consolidation of theological training, the building up in the large city of a parish system which will make a given church primarily responsible for a given district, and the removal of the scandal of a divided church in the small community. These objects have been kept distinctly in view in the writing of this book.

For the method adopted I am, of course, indebted to Edward Bellamy's book, "Looking Backward." Whatever opinion may be held of Bellamy's views,