

pulous sameness in minor points, for that heaven-born union which grows out of the grand essential doctrines of Christianity. In these, all sincere Christians have ever agreed; and these, therefore, must be the ground on which is based that glorious oneness which our text declares to be the especial gift of Christ.

It is greatly to be lamented, however, that this union is so little understood, and so little cultivated. The people of God of every division of the Church, know that they love—that they cannot but love one another, and yet they hardly dare to avow themselves united. Still, it is gratifying to see a growing desire for a more extended sense of union, and an increasing inquiry after those modes, in which, consistently with conscientious attachment to particular doctrines, such union may be manifested, and may act. The spread of correct Biblical knowledge, and of the principles of a just Biblical interpretation, which has characterised the last thirty or forty years, tends greatly to promote the union of the Universal Church, by bringing all to a common test of religious belief, rather than referring each section of the Church to fallible and yet rigid human standards, which must be regarded as almost ultimate in these decisions.

A manifestation of the results of this growing light has been seen in the formation of Bible Societies, in combined Missionary labours, and still more in the efforts at Christian Alliance recently put forth by almost every branch of the Christian Church in England and America.

If union is thus so desirable and proper for Christians in general, how much more needful is it that those among whom there exists no difference in faith or practice, should be fully united! Nay, how worthy of the highest censure and reproach must be any want of that union in action, as well as in sentiment, and in affection, of which we have already spoken as comprising the oneness which the Saviour has bestowed upon his people.

On this account, it has been greatly regretted, that the division of these Provinces into separate governments should ever have lessened the means of union and of combined exertion among our Baptist Churches. It is to provide the means whereby we may better know and love one another,