

THE  
Canadian Independent.

VOL. XX.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1874.

No. 7.

MANIFESTED CHRISTIAN UNITY.

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OUR Lord prayed to the Father "That they all may be one : as Thou Father art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us ; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me." This prayer was on behalf of all who believe in Jesus through the word of life. Its elements are (1) for *Christian Unity* ; that all believers in Christ may be one, as the Father is in the Son, and the Son is in the Father : (2) for this unity *in the Father* and *in the Son* : "that they may be one *in us*." The prayer for them is not only that they should be *one* in the likeness of the unity in the persons of the ever blessed Trinity, but also one *in the Father* and the Son—identified in heart and life with God. (3.) The declaration that a true exhibition of this unity will convince the world of the divine mission of the Son. The argument from their manifested oneness is to be conclusive and decisive. Logic may fail to convince however well ordered ; reasoning will be successfully resisted by what is supposed to be counter reasoning ; but the manifested unity of God's people shall prevail,—it shall achieve the victory,—beholding it, the world shall believe in the great and blessed Messiah.

The contents of this divine-human, human-divine prayer indicate the supreme importance of *manifested unity*. There may be, yea there is, unity oftentimes, though imperfectly manifested. The genuine disciples of Christ *are one* the world over, one in virtue of their relation to Him. They are one *in Him* : fellow-heirs of the grace of life, children of the one family, who are to dwell together in the Father's house above, as one household. But this interior fact does not convince the world. Its vision penetrates not into these arcana. This wide-spread spiritual relationship is all too high and subtle for *its* apprehension. Yet even the world can understand manifested love. Pagan Romans could apprehend the fact that these Christians loved one another, when that fact was placed in the face of day by their palpable and continuous mutual regard and helpfulness. Amid the bitterness of surrounding strifes, and the keen wrestlings of selfishness for the attainment of personal ends, they saw these Christians with marvellous self-abnegation "seeking not their own things but the things of others," for the sake of their invisible Master ; yea, they saw them cheerfully sacrifice all that the world holds dear, in the name of Christ, that they might aid one another ; and thus was there set up before Pagan eyes a spectacle so unique and grand that they could only attribute its origin to Divine power and grace. Multitudes thus believed that Jesus was the sent of the Father, and the Saviour of men.

Such being the deep interest of our Lord in the manifested unity of His people, it becomes matter of serious inquiry *What is meant by this Unity ?*

And here some common mistakes must be corrected. (1.) Sameness in perception of truth, or of opinions in relation to it, is in no wise essential to unity. One