

how shall the world see it and believe in Christ? But is the formation of one all-embracing denomination the best way of manifesting it? Was our Lord's prayer most fully answered when the Roman Catholic Church was the one corporate body of Christendom and burnt at the stake all who ventured to differ from it? There was "organic union" in the days of Luther, one universal Catholic Church, but it did not stay universal, its organization was broken up. If it had not been Luther would have been burned instead of the Pope's bull. There was schism, a new denomination, and in that fact was life and liberty.

Now supposing we get once more an universal denomination, what is to become of the Luthers and Wesleys, the heretics that may yet arise? Will this Universal Church be very kind to them, and tell them that above all things else they must be loyal to their own consciences and to God? or will it set in motion its "one set of laws" and compel submission to the "corporate body?"

I confess I have some fear of the issue of it all, and it is this that prevents me from being eager to aid in bringing about corporate union, as such. It may be that the Church shall yet attain to a grand and glorious corporate unity—a unity that shall fittingly embody and express our spiritual oneness in Christ—that shall mightily impress all beholders

with the vision of a fair City of God, holding universal sway, and yet jealous with all the jealousy of God, of each soul's freedom of access to the Father, of each soul's independent discipleship of Christ.

Such a unity if at all possible to men so variously constituted as we are, would no doubt be most desirable.

But I am certain of this, that if ever such a union is to be consummated it must be by the natural growth of mutual love and faith, and not only so, but we must come much nearer to one another in our judgments of truth and in our ideas as to the best methods of Christian work, while at the same time we learn to give more respect to the convictions of those who differ from us.

Meanwhile much good will come from such a discussion as this. If it does nothing else it will help us to set before ourselves more clearly, what is the real nature of the union which we seek and what it involves. Moreover it will help us to get at a clearer understanding of what we regard to be the essentials of Christian fellowship.

It is becoming more and more evident that there can be no united Christendom on the lines of any one of the great Christian organizations which are in our midst. There must be mutual concessions, modifications of creed and discipline, the dropping off of non-essentials that a basis of real and acknow-