

One of the tendencies in the Christian church to-day is that towards union. This has its good and its evil side. It is good as it leads men to look less at that in which they differ, and to recognize the great fact that "all ye are brethren." It is evil if it leads men to give up for the sake of outward union truths of God's word, which though not essential, are important. The ideal unity of the church on earth is unity in spirit and in aim, not in outward organization.

It is far better to have the Christian church, consisting of different denominations each from firm intelligent conviction heartily attached to its own form of organization and its own special doctrines, and all living and labouring for Christ, cordially united in spirit and aim, than to have church life all run into one mould, merely for the sake of unity in organization. Christians to whom "all denominations are alike" are generally useless to any, while those who cordially love, and heartily approve of, the minor doctrines and the polity of some branch of the household of faith, and at the same time love all who love the Lord Jesus Christ, are those who do the most for advancing the Redeemer's kingdom.

One of the best illustrations of the true unity which should characterize the Christian Church was the congress of American Churches recently held in Hartford, Conn., attended by leading men from different denominations. Four most questions were discussed :

1. The Relations of a divided Christianity to Aggressive Christianity.
2. The Functions of worship in promoting the Growth of the Church.
3. The Attitude of the Secular Press in America towards Religion.
4. The Historical Christ Considered as the True Centre of Theology.

When the Christian Church learns to "live and let live," when Christian people learn to work, not for denomination, but, in a denomination they think most Scriptural, and, for Christ, viewing other Christian bodies as brethren in Christ, members of Christ's body, and loving

them not the less because differing in opinion, then will be answered the prayer of Christ "that they all may be one."

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, North, met in Cincinnati, May 31st.

The receipts of the F. M. Board from all sources during the year were about \$700,000, the expenditure, including a debt of \$10,723 from last year, has been \$767,834. Their debt is now a round \$50,000, a mere item in their expenditure, but nearly as much as was raised by the Presbyterian Church in Canada for Foreign Missions during the year. Though the crises is grave, the one feeling was that they must not go back, while the heathen are perishing, but more earnestly to work.

Their Home Mission work has a still heavier debt. Its income for the year was \$494,000, its expenditure \$584,389, which, with former deficit, makes a debt of \$110,160. The falling off in receipts both in this and in the Foreign Mission Fund has been from legacies. The regular giving of the churches has been larger than ever before. For this fund alone the giving of the church has been \$30,000 larger than in any previous year. To show the work done by this Fund, they have no fewer than 1435 home missionaries in the field, and, during the past year, 192 new churches have been organized. We get some idea of the great work done, and the rapid growth of that church, when we remember that during the last year its increase, in number of congregations, exceeds our whole church in the Maritime provinces.

Rev. Dr. King, Principal of Mantoba College, in the course of his address to the graduating class, when speaking of leading in public prayer, made the following terse and pertinent remark :

"Devout soliloquizing, doctrinal amplification, may be interesting and even profitable, but neither is, properly speaking, prayer."