

We have transformations here and now which may well increase our faith in our own. Witness, for instance, the transformation of water into steam. We have first the heavy inert body of water; then in a moment, if sufficient heat is applied, we have the volatile, invisible steam, quivering with energy. Or take the fire fly. This moment it is a puny insect; the next it is a radiant star. O yes; we see transmutation here and now that may well confirm our faith in our own by and by.

The main dignity of the human body is that it is a temple of the Holy Ghost. Inferior to that, but most glorious, is the dignity of this human flesh in that it contains now the potentiality of the glorious body. Yes, it contains all the potentiality now. Nothing is to be added to it. It is simply to be changed. This corruptible is to "put on" incorruption, and this mortal is to "put on" immortality.

VACATION TRIPS.

If ever there was a favorable opportunity to visit the Western States and the Pacific Coast, it will be this summer. The attractions there are as numerous, and the railroad fares as low as any reasonable person could expect.

Of course, the Alaska-Yukon Exposition, to be held at Seattle, Wash., from June 1st to October 16th, will be the main feature, and this has led a number of our large patriotic, social and benevolent bodies to hold their Annual Conventions in the West this year. The Grand Trunk Railway System is granting special low excursion rates which can be taken advantage of by the general public, as well as the members of the different organizations mentioned below, and it is for this purpose we wish to draw the attention of the public generally to the matter, as we know that a number of people who would like to arrange for a vacation trip to the Pacific Coast this summer have an idea that these special low rates are only intended for the delegates of the fraternal bodies. Such is not the case, however, as any one who wishes to make this trip can secure these rates on application to any of our agents, or by communicating with Mr. J. Quinlan, District Passenger Agent, Montreal.

The following are some of the organizations who will hold their annual convention in the West this year:—

National Association Women's Suffrage, Seattle, Wash., July 1 to 7, '09.
Epworth League, Seattle, Wash., July 7 to 12, '09.

I.O.O.F., Seattle, Wash., Sept. 20 to 25, '09.

National Irrigation Congress, Spokane, Wash., Aug. 9 to 14, '09.

Northern Baptist Assn., Portland, Ore., June 25 to July 2.

National Educational Assn., Denver, Col., July 3 to 9, '09.

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Los Angeles, Cal., July 11 to 17.

National Encampment, G.A.R., Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 9 to 14.

Y.P.C. Union, Universalist Ch., Minneapolis, Minn., July 7 to 14.

Tickets will be issued by any of the regular routes going and returning, or going by one route, and returning by another—one way through California if desired. Part of the route may also be taken through the Great Lakes.

The Alaska-Yukon Exposition at Seattle, Wash., June 1st to October 16th, will, from all accounts, surpass anything in this line heretofore held in America.

Agents of the Grand Trunk Ry. System will be pleased to receive communications from passengers who intend visiting the Exposition, or from delegates attending the different conventions, and give full information as regards rates, train service, and routes, also arrange for sleeping or parlor car reservations. This will be attended to properly, and early replies given in each case.

TRUTH is the foundation of all knowledge, and the cement of all societies.—Dryden

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNION COMMITTEE.

By Rev. A. B. Dobson.

Another question which forced itself upon one who for the first time listened to a discussion of Union in the Assembly, refers to the responsibility of the Union Committee. Has anything ever been laid before the Assembly which can be taken as an assurance that the committee truly realizes the extent of its responsibility? The convener asserts emphatically that the committee had faithfully followed the instruction of the Assembly, and he used this as an argument for the adoption of his resolution. But he gave us no evidence. And many who at first did not take the union movement seriously enough to bother about this committee now believe, not only that the committee has no legal right to exist but that it has presumed to determine its own powers and has exercised them in a somewhat high handed fashion. This is strong language and every one would be only too glad to know that it is uncalled for, but we must judge the committee. In this respect, on its own record as we understand it. This is a time for plain words. And men who, without the church's permission and at her expense, are avowedly working for her obliteration with all that is involved in that act, will naturally expect to defend every step in the process, and will even solicit opportunity to do so.

Now what conclusion can we reach about the committee's idea of its own authority? What is the record? First a small committee met with Methodist and Congregational committees on April 21, 1904, and declared that "we are of one mind that organic union is both desirable and practicable." A remarkable act for a body of jurymen who had not yet heard the evidence! Then this committee was enlarged and called the Union Committee and was charged by the Assembly to "consider the practicability of such a union." What would naturally be expected of a committee with such a commission? Surely to gather information, to investigate all the real, practical difficulties, as well as all the certain advantages of organic union, and to lay everything fully, clearly and IN DETAIL before the Assembly from year to year, until the church generally should realize the true situation. This done the committee would then properly give the Assembly its own private judgment on the whole subject and leave the matter to decide on the value of such judgment apart altogether from the personal influence of individual men who control the committee. This would have been at least a reasonable course and one to which no one could fairly object.

But what has the Committee done instead? From the first it has evidently regarded itself as authorized to bring about union rather than to inform the church. From the first it resolved itself into a body of special pleaders whose special business it was to frame a scheme of organic union and to thrust it upon the church. At the very commencement of its labours it decided for organic union, and at every Assembly since its appointment its members have posed as the only ardent champions of organic union. In other words, so far as the writer can see, the Committee rendered its verdict before it heard the evidence at all. Any other body of jurymen would be immediately and finally disqualified and discredited by such an act. The Committee needed the whole five years of its existence to make anything like a proper investigation of so great a problem. Its own work furnishes abundant evidence that it is not even yet qualified to pronounce on the "practicability" of union.

Of course the Committee points to the Basis as proof positive that the churches are anxiously waiting for amalgamation. And here it must be said that the completion of that Basis by a few men who never received any mandate from the people does not even show that they have been to any ap-

preceable extent working out the problem of practicability.

All that the completion of the Basis shows is that a few of the men of each denomination who teach and preach, a few college professors and their followers, would be satisfied with a certain doctrinal statement and with a certain other statement of polity. Nothing more; for who cares what their private agreements or disagreements may be so far as they concern, the final settlement of this question? How much does the existence of this basis show of willingness and preparedness for union on the part of the great unconsidered mass numbering three quarters of a million people? What do they know or care about that document? This multitude has not been heard. It alone can give the final word, and it is not going to speak it on the ground of a basis or out of deep respect for the opinions of a Union Committee. It alone can say whether it will enter the proposed union or, what is more important, whether it will stay in it. In other words, it alone can give the only evidence which has any value and until it does so it is pure presumption for any man to say that he knows organic union can be righteously and safely consummated and that it will end our little denominational troubles. Strange that the committee should return its verdict without hearing this principle witness! Strange also that it should attempt to use the verdict to bias the evidence! For what other satisfactory explanation of the existence of the Basis can be given than that it may help the cause of union by creating a prepossession in its favour?

True, the committee have tried to justify the construction of the document by saying that it is necessary to enable the people to vote intelligently on the question. That is to say, we must first arrange the terms of a contract, devote five years to it, spend say \$25,000 of good money on it, and after all this proceed to find out whether a contract is needed or a bargain even possible. Men don't contract other unions in this fashion. They don't even trade horses that way. That is an explanation which does not explain.

Taking everything into account it is difficult for many to escape the conviction that some individuals have decided that the church needs organic union, and that a certain amount of dragooning is necessary to it and must be used. This we draw from the records of the past five years. At the recent Assembly the impression was only deepened and on the second Lord's Day of October when dealing with the question some of us must honestly tell it to our congregations.

Fordwich, June 22, 1909.

JUST FOUR WEEKS MORE.

Which to Register for Bowler's Pacific Coast Party.

On July 15 Bowler's personally conducted party will start for the Pacific Coast via the Grand Trunk Railway system. This tour has been planned with no less a purpose than to give one of the most ideal tours possible at the lowest possible expense, and no effort will be spared to bring a fulfilment of this purpose. If any are planning a tour to the coast this season, there is certainly no way that they can get so much out of it as by joining this party. In this way all the hard part of travelling will be removed, all the annoying details of travel will be attended to, and the members of the party will be permitted to enjoy the tour, care free. Besides it will be impossible for anyone to take the tour alone and arrange their own details and get as much as is afforded in this tour at the expense charged.

It must be definitely known we are to take the tour within a very short time, and any interested should make reservations at once.—For full information address, E. C. BOWLER, Bethel, Me.