

Symposium.

WHAT MAY BE DONE FOR THE MUTUAL APPROACH OF CHRISTIANS OF DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS.

BY REV. W. H. WARRINER, B.D.

I LIKE the title chosen for this Symposium, inasmuch as it binds no one down to the advocacy, or even to the discussion of any one form of Christian Union.

That a "mutual approach" is both possible and desirable we are all agreed : that this approach may possibly take the form of the organic union of all Christendom we, with the history of the Roman Catholic Church behind us, cannot deny ; but that such a corporate union is the one thing most desirable, some of us may doubt.

I know that many maintain that this corporate union of all Christendom is the very thing for which Christ prayed when he asked that his disciples might be one with himself and the Father so that the world might believe in him. In the recent conference of the representatives of different denominations in the parlours of the Ministerial Association of Toronto, Dr. Langtry, speaking for the Episcopal Church declared this unity to be "one body bound together by one common life, animated by one spirit, professing one faith, regulated by one set of laws, and speaking with one voice

through her final court of appeal—a General Council." This conception of Christian Unity was also expressed by the Anglican Synod of Montreal last summer in its telegram of welcome to the Pan-Presbyterian Council sitting in Toronto in which it stated its "continued earnest desire for the restoration of the corporate union of Christendom." In replying to this telegram however the Pan-Presbyterian Council did not reciprocate the desire for the "corporate union of Christendom," but contented itself with expressing its longing for the "Unity of the Church for which the Saviour prayed." That reply implied that there were at least some in the Council who doubted whether "corporate union" was the unity for which Christ prayed.

And I am strongly of this mind myself.. Still it may be urged by some that this corporate union must be the ultimate, as it is the only fitting and complete expression of our unity of spirit and life in him.

But of this I am not certain. That this unity must have some visible and palpable manifestation is evident, else