

come when they can unite organically with any other body or bodies of Christians without being untrue to their convictions of duty to Christ, they will heartily welcome and seek such union. Meanwhile they are not indifferent to the current discussions of this subject as the following resolution passed unanimously by the New York State Baptist Pastors' Conference in the autumn of 1886 will show:—

“*Whereas*, There is among Christians a prevailing and increasing desire for a more through co-operation in works of faith and labors of love for the spread of the Gospel and the extension of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world; and *whereas*, So honorable and conservative a body of Christians as the Protestant Episcopal Church of America, in its General Convention now in session at Chicago, has entered upon the consideration of, opening communication with the various bodies of Christians in this land with a view of ascertaining if a disposition exists among them to promote organic unity upon the basis of the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and in the breaking of bread and the prayers: therefore,

*Resolved*, That we as Baptists profoundly sympathize with the desire thus expressed, and pledge ourselves to join all the disciples of our common Lord in the endeavor to obtain that unity ‘which can be restored only by the return of all Christian communions to the principles of unity exemplified by the undivided Catholic Church,’ as constituted by our Lord and His inspired apostles.

*Resolved*, That the prevalence of unbelief in every possible form, and of both organized and unorganized wickedness so alarming to every true Christian and philanthropist, demands such combined action for self-defence as well as for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom.” This may be taken as a representative statement.

II. *Essential Christian Unity in no small degree already exists.* With all the differences between the evangelical churches of Protestantism the Christians in them are essentially one, and their oneness manifests itself increasingly and in new ways year by year. The differences between them may be great, but the unity is greater. The things that unite us are more than the things that divide us. What is Christian Unity? It is of supreme importance to have clear ideas on t' is question. Not a little of the difficulty that envelops this subject in many minds is due to vagueness and confusion of thought at this very point. The popular idea is that Christian Unity consists in a general good feeling between the Christians of different churches toward one another as Christians, and we are thankful to believe that