

The Effect of Union on the Great Departments of the Church

By Rev. GEO. C. PIDGEON, D.D., of Toronto.

THE Mission Boards of the Church are overwhelmingly in favor of Union. Whenever men face the problem of the extension of the Kingdom of God in home or foreign lands, they feel the need of the help of their brethren, and anything like civil strife is a tragedy of the cause. It is a significant fact that of the 170 missions under our Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions only one actually voted against Church Union. Where the need is greatest the desire is strongest. In the Foreign Field it is not financial pressure that drives toward Union. Under the County of Missions, each Church has a district of its own to evangelize. Yet there is need of a united front against the colossal mass of heathendom is most keenly felt. To make any impression on that vast body, all must act together. After converts are won and admitted to the Church, our denominational differences perplex them sorely. Some of the most intelligent of the native Christians in different countries have protested vigorously against imposing western divisions and rivalries on Eastern Churches. Christianity in these different countries should develop churches which will express each people's peculiar spirit or genius and meet its peculiar needs. The Church of Christ in China should be a united body, as indigenous to the soil as Presbyterianism is to Scotland. So should it be with the Church in India. Their most thoughtful men affirm that Westerners can never understand the mind of India, and, if that be so, we can never construct a Church for India, and we should not try to impose on them competing systems that have grown out of our own struggles and experiences, and therefore belong to us alone. Their own religious life and spirit must take a form of its own. In no other way can they be true to the teachings of the Spirit of God within them. If they are to unite, the home Churches must lead.

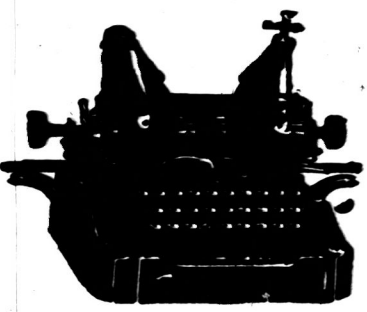
All these considerations have weight in the Home Field. In addition, we have here the great economic argument for Church Union. Between Quebec and the Pacific Coast the Presbyterian Church has 176 fields where the Methodists bear the same name on each of our lists. To the year and the Methodist Board \$51,356. That is to say, about one eighth of our entire Home Mission revenue goes to support causes that overlap Methodist congregations. This statement, however, needs amplification. In addition to the 176 places mentioned, there are over 50 others where the two churches cover the same territory but all their congregations by different names. As

the names are different in the lists, it is impossible to secure exact statistics. On the other side of the account there is the consideration, the village where the mission-ary resides and by which the field is named is sometimes only a centre for a group of preaching stations and overlapping at the centre may mean overlapping at outside points. The money wasted in the one case may be counterbalanced by the needy places supplied in the other, so that the statement still stands that one eighth of our Home Mission money goes into work that duplicates that of a sister denomination. These figures do not take into account the larger amounts raised by the fields themselves for their own support. Add these, and the situation is more serious, and the argument for joining forces still stronger. Now, no one would object to this anything vital. Recently an anti-unionist reproached a Western man with advocating Union because he was too mean to support his Church. "It is your difference that are not worth paying for," was his retort. This is just the point. For years we have been co-operating with the Methodists. In hundreds of places one full charge. In not one instance has it ever been suggested that any vital truth or principle was imperilled by such withdrawal. Each assumed that the interests of the Kingdom of God would be as faithfully and efficiently guarded by the one as by the other. Then when nothing vital separated them why maintain separate organizations? Further, one would not object to rival congregations, even then if the cause of Christ in the community were strengthened by them. On the contrary, each weakens the other in one place after the churches are united, the attendance at the Union services was 50% greater than the attendance at both churches before, and there was an enthusiasm and success in their work previously unknown. The united church can then exert an influence in its life utterly beyond the capacity of the struggling causes that preceded it. "The cause among us" is a statement we have heard "In everything else we are all one, but in this we are divided." In a time when the unity spirit is so essential, our disunity is a terrible evil against the Kingdom of God. Not one of the places mentioned, there are over 50 others where the two churches cover the same territory but all their congregations by different names. As

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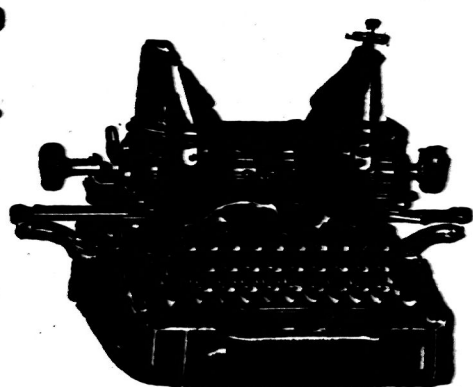
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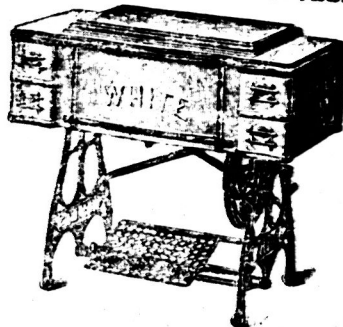
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Fine Athlete Goes

In the death at the front of Major Gordon Southam, Canada has lost one of her most versatile and widely known athletes. Major Southam was serving with the 40th Battery in France when he gave his life for his country.

In football, tennis, cricket, hockey, golf, squash racquets, and other lines of athletic endeavor Major Southam had gained fame. On several occasions he was chosen on Canadian and Provincial teams. He was born in Hamilton about thirty years ago, and prepared at Upper Canada College for the University of Toronto, where he took his degree in arts in 1907. During his course he was regarded as the best athlete wearing the blue and white. In addition he was a clever student, and his sterling traits of character earned him the respect and admiration of all with whom he came in contact.

For three years he played on the U. of T. Intercollegiate senior football and hockey teams. He won the novice championship of the University at tennis. When the Canadian Zingari toured England and met the best cricketer teams of the old country Major Southam was one of the stars of the tourists. He also earned a place on Canadian international elevens. With him in cricket were closely associated Lieut.-Colonel W. R. Marshall and Lieut. Waldemar Marshall, both of whom have also given their lives at the front. In 1907 he was champion of the Lambton Golf Club.

Perhaps there was never a more proficient backfield player in Canadian senior football than the late Major Southam. His specialty was kicking goals from the field. Many football fans will recall his famous goal from the field for Hamilton Tigers against Montreal in the latter city a few seasons ago, which won the game in the last minute of play. He was a member of the Toronto University Club and the Toronto chapter of the Zeta Psi fraternity. A gallant and considerate officer, he was deservedly popular with the men of his command. Before enlisting he was on the staff of The Hamilton Spectator.

Pumping Out Goldfish.

The large stone quarries at Amherstburg, which are being pumped free of water by Captain F. J. Trotter's wringing pumps, are about emptied, and work will start in a few days by the Sobay Pumping Co. of Detroit in getting out some fine black stone for building purposes. The quarry holes are filled with gold fish, which sell at fancy prices in cities. These fish come right through the big steam pumps and go along the ditches to the big screw, where the muddy water kills them.

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