

TOO MANY CHURCHES.

With two churches in this little city destitute of pastors we find good people are discussing the question of "pooling issues" temporarily at least. Such men as T. H. Spencer, Frank P. Hawkins, George L. Wrenn and some others remember the time when all Christians, and some quite respectable sinners worshipped every Sunday for several years—exactly how many we know not—in one congregation and were united, happy and useful. All hands took hold and helped support the enterprise. How much better have they done since they split up into half a dozen sects, every last one of them are now struggling with debts, etc., to keep their heads above water? We gave great umbrage once to some of our good brethren because we said publicly and we must confess somewhat emphatically that it was not absolutely necessary to the social, moral, political or religious prosperity of the commonwealth that every city, town or village in the state have a church of our own particular denomination. But we did insist that the public good demanded public religious worship of some kind, and there were towns enough in need of that much more than any town needed half a dozen struggling churches.

We know all about the talk—the "arguments" they call them—used for this multiplicity of churches; but what we call for is united effort for the salvation of men and the glory of God. We don't ask any church to disband, not at all, but if we are all to dwell together forever in heaven, why can't we co-operate a little, betimes here. Why, this winter for instance, have two ministerial supplies, heat, light and care for two meeting houses; that is, run two big costly establishments, when every last one of us could be comfortably accommodated in one assembly, get acquainted with each other and perhaps learn to love each other, just a little, you know.

We are not asking that denominational lines and organizations be blotted out, but we do think the man is of much more consequence than the denominational label he wears. We know what our denominational faith is and we believe in it with all our soul, but we have not all the Christianity there is in the world. But we do believe it might be better, for a season at least, to put all our hands and hearts and efforts together, for the religious good of this place, and this for added moral and

spiritual strength and for financial relief to some heavily burdened in these times.

FORT SHERIDAN.

Secretary of War Alger, seems determined to have the recent treatment of Hammond at Fort Sheridan probed to the bottom, and if that bumptious Captain who ordered the brutal dragging of Hammond is found guilty, he will be drummed out of the service in disgrace. The fact is the humanity of the American people has been aroused, and if their military officers are found practicing the tactics of the Sultan of Turkey, they will have a reform. It is not Sec'y Alger, nor a few editors alone, who are down on this semi-barbarism, it is the country. Our American people know but little and care less for the technical points or rules of war in this Hammond affair, but do know brutality from manliness, after a five years war to wipe out the shame and curse of American slavery, they will not tolerate a revival of any of its inhuman, revolting features in its own army, whose officers are supposed to be gentlemen, if not Christians. All we know of the affair is what we have seen in the papers and heard from the men, but if half of that is true, it is enough to create a vacancy or two at Fort Sheridan. Our people are patient and enduring to the last degree, but when it comes to the personal abuse of the rank and file, the common soldiers of its little army, by a man in shoulder straps, their anger is aroused, and the guilty must pay the penalty. This is one of those cases, and hence the widespread and intense indignation over the affair.

CHURCH CASE DECIDED.

Last Tuesday the supreme court of this state decided a case of local interest, that of Bethany church. Last spring the same court reversed the opinion of the lower court and gave the church to the original society. The Evangelical association people again applied for a rehearing and this also went against them. They furthermore will have to pay the costs which amount to quite a sum. What the flock of Rev. Hauch will do now has not yet been fully decided. There are two ways open: one is to purchase the Bethany church or permit the members to seek a church home elsewhere, and abandon their organization.

Offers looking toward reconciliation and unison have been made.

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