

Letters To Editor

Considering Church Union. Toronto, July 28.—(To the Editor): In various Canadian newspapers there has appeared lately a letter signed by the secretary of the organization for the continuance of the Presbyterian Church, a body formed to resist the movement which now appears altogether likely to issue in a happy union of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. The writer is interested because this letter reproduces a circular sent early this year over his signature to a minister or elder in each of a number of Presbyteries. It was indeed, at the request of certain Toronto Friends of Union that the circular was written, but its form is mine and therefore the chief responsibility also is mine.

The anti-unionists suggest that by means of the circular it was proposed to obtain in the General Assembly of this year a larger union representation than could be warranted by the state of opinion in the Presbyteries. The suggestion is the fruit of a riotous fancy. Had any of the men to whom the circular was sent found in it any such proposal, it would have been resented immediately. Moreover, while it asks that a watch be kept against any attempt to pack the Assembly against Union, it also emphatically repudiates the idea that "the opponents of Union be deprived of their fair share of representation."

Was there, then, reason to fear that opponents of union might endeavor to obtain for their side an unduly large representation? One is glad to know that the executive of the anti-union organization knows nothing officially of action of this sort, but the friends of union above referred to had reason to fear that certain parties had made such an attempt in 1914. It was, in fact, largely because it did not appear de-

sirable to publish our fears in the public press that our circular was marked private. It was not confidential in the usual sense and hence, whether it was wise or otherwise, it should not be called dishonorable to publish it. On the contrary, one may be well pleased that dark whispers concerning its contents can no longer pass easily from lip to lip.

If not delighted, we may be diverted by the honorific name which the anti-unionists have given to their organization. But the original name included preservation as well as continuance. Why was the word "preservation" dropped? Some say that the real purpose was to pick rather than to preserve our church and there may be some truth in the just seeing that the Presbyterian Church can be kept unchanged. Our church is a living thing, it has both grown apparently and it has continued Presbyterian without the help of an organization for its continuance. And what is vital to Presbyterianism will continue in the United Church of Canada. The Presbyterian Church stands for salvation by grace; so does the Methodist Church. The Presbyterian Church is not strictly democratic, but representative in its government; so is the Methodist Church. According to the basis of union is evangelical in its doctrine, and with sessions and presbyteries, similar to our own, its polity is representative. To reason with a man who denies these obvious facts is to waste words.

The Anti-union letter referred to appears to make "uniformity in the churches" an object of the Union movement. That word uniformity apparently has a fearful fascination for some people. Do they find it useful to fight against the idea lest they be captivated by it? Unionists, on their part, do not feel an interest in uniformity. Hence the Basis of Union gives to all congregations now in existence the right to retain unchanged all those variations in the management of local affairs to which they have become accustomed.

But while uniformity is of no consequence, it is the bounden duty of every Christian to press towards the most perfect fellowship with his brethren in Christ, and therefore to endeavor to get rid of every hindrance to that fellowship. Can it be doubted that denominational barriers are a hindrance? Evidently they make, not for the unity and harmony which Anti-unionists say they desire, but for mutual estrangement. Misunderstandings easily arise when interests are separate. Besides, many of us "do not like" our fellow-Christians, and our dislikes are largely due to denominational ignorance.

If Christian fellowship is most desirable, so also is effectiveness in Christian service. The Church should remember that she is always at war with the forces of evil and that, even in Christendom nineteen full centuries after Christ, evil wields stupendous power. And just as a country at war begins to organize its resources as soon as it realizes that the conflict is momentous, so the Church is endeavoring elsewhere as well as in Canada, to unify her efforts, because she begins to comprehend the immensity of her world-wide task. In presence of the head-headed monster which the world worships, many of her internal differences sink into utter insignificance.

As already intimated, Presbyterian friends of Union look forward hopefully to the vote soon to be taken in their church. The vote taken some years ago was not considered decisive. For Union there then voted 37 per cent. of our membership, while 17 per cent. voted on the other side. For the unrevived basis there voted 27 per cent. as the Anti-unionists remind us in their letter. They also say that the opposition was "large and strong," but in their truly delightful modesty they do not mention that it lacked only a little of 9-1-2 per cent. One may, however, expect that this year the Union vote will be much heavier. The Anti-unionists say that in practically every Presbytery the ministers who favor Union are a majority. This is good news and very insignificant, if true, for only 50 Presbyteries out of 70 voted for Union when the question was submitted to them before. And the news may well be true for the Assembly of this year approved of the revised basis by the splendid



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WHEN ROLL IS CALLED

MOST NATIONS WILL ANSWER. "I WAS THERE"

Impassioned Speech Of a Chicago Lawyer Urging United States To Do Its Part With the Allies.

The Westminister Gazette. An impassioned and lofty speech was made at the annual dinner of the Chicago Alumni of Michigan University by John M. Zane, one of the foremost lawyers in Chicago, who advocated the cause of the Allies. "This is a war of ideas where every tongue must take a side," he said. "There is, there can be, no neutrality of ideas. Whoever speaks a word of sympathy or freedom against autocracy is taking sides with humanity and progress. 'No sides in the quarrel!' proclaim it as well. To the angels that fight with the legions of hell."

"France, gallant, imperishable France, in his onward rush and drove him back to his hair. 'Ireland, the land of a thousand sorrows, will answer: I disdain all selfish thoughts and gave the names of my best and bravest to be traced on the blood-sprinkled roll. 'England and Scotland, the land of every day in the world, the land of Milton and Vane, the land of Wallace and Bruce, the land of Sidney and Russell—Great Britain, the refuge of the oppressed, whose protecting fleet saved Dewey at Manila, will say: Though I sat impregnable behind the iron walls of my ships, in a quarrel not my own, I gave my blood and my treasure with a lavish hand that alien lands should not be enslaved and that liberty should not perish from the earth."

"And last and best of all, unconquerable Belgium, Gentlemen, we cannot thank her without emotion. Every heart calls up Vergil's noble line: 'Sunt lacrimae rerum et mentem mortalia tangunt.' There are tears for undeserved misfortune and moral sufferings touch the soul—Belgium, with her glories and her liberty, knight without reproach or fear, Belgium, the savior of the nations, will say: I bowed not to the brutal Bala, I chose the noble path of honor and of valor. My land was laid waste, I saw the devastation and the slaughter of an innocent people, but I kept the faith. 'And when that great roll is called of the heroic nations in this struggle for liberty and democracy shall we answer with a shameful tale of how we withheld even our good wishes, of how Freedom's land her faith disowned? Nay, what is more shameful still, shall we confess that we, who are not asked to peril our lives and fortunes in the war, yet, by inglorious complaints of trade, put a single obstacle in the path of these heroic nations in their struggle for our favor for the liberties of the world?'"

"No, let us all who love our dear blest Motherland resolve that, so far as in us lies, that starry flag shall be kept unstained by such dishonor. And let us boldly say to the murderers of our own innocents upon the Lusitania. 'We hit the starry flag on high that fills with light our stormy sky: That flies of heroes hence it round, Where'er it flies is holy ground; It makes the land as ocean free, And plants our freedom on the sea, Even half the Banner of the Free, The starry Flower of Liberty.'"

I am, yours respectfully—A Farmer's Wife.

Editor's Note—Believing that any injustice done to possible buyers by the method above complained of was altogether unintentional, the Whig interviewed a leading drygoods merchant in regard to the matter. It was made a abundantly clear that the sales were announced without any thought of discriminating against residents in the country. "Our experience," explained this merchant, "has been that country residents will not drive in just to take advantage of special sales; therefore we did not time these sales with the object of securing this class of trade. On the other hand, city people will go to sales out of curiosity, and, when they see good bargains, will make purchases. I believe it is well, however, to give this lady's suggestion a trial, and will advertise sales at an hour when country people can take advantage of them."

It will doubtless be gratifying to our merchants to be thus reminded that the farmers' wives are reading the Whig's advertisement columns. Subscribed Three Times Over. New York, July 30.—It was learned to-day that the Dominion Government \$45,000,000 loan was subscribed more than three times over. Allotments of the notes have been made to subscribers on the following basis: To all subscribers for all amounts in excess of \$20,000, 100 per cent. To subscribers for amounts from \$11,000 to \$49,000, 50 per cent, and to all subscribers for all amounts in excess of \$49,000, 25 per cent. Note of the banking or investment houses in the city has offered any of the notes for sale.

Cheese Markets. MaDoc, Ont., July 28.—Four hundred cheese boarded. All sold at 13 3-16c. Woodstock, Ont., July 28.—One thousand three hundred and sixty-seven cheese offered. Highest bid 12 3/4c.



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