

BOOKS THAT SOLVE THE GIFT PROBLEM

Madame Claire by Susan Ertz
 Doctor Nye Joseph Lincoln
 The Mine With the Iron Door
 Harold Bell Wright
 North of 36 Emerson Hough
 Silk Samuel Merwin
 Sir John Dering Jeffery Farnol
 Feet of Clay Margaretta Tuttle
 The Happy Isles Basil King
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BIG GATHERING ATTENDS CHURCH UNION MEETING

Addressed by Principal Smythe and Rev. Dr. Roberts of Montreal.

One of the outstanding events in the history of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches of the city took place on Wednesday evening when a joint meeting was held in Sydenham street Methodist church, when the matter of church union was ably presented by Principal Smythe of the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal, and Rev. Dr. Richard Roberts, of the American Presbyterian church of the same city. The church was well filled, and everybody was satisfied that it was one of the most profitable evenings spent in a long time.

Some of the outstanding statements of Dr. Roberts, who was the first speaker, were that it is a question of joining our forces and making a single journey, and that there is also an opportunity of sending a message to the Anglicans and asking them to come in. Union, to his mind, is only commencing.

Dr. Roberts' Address.
 Dr. Richard Roberts spoke in part as follows:
 "I do not know whether I have a real right to be here. My own congregation has not been directly involved in the union proceedings, though my session has more than once unanimously declared its judgment that the congregation should become a part of the united church, and I have no doubt when the union comes, we shall be here. But so far officially I have been looking on and there is some advantage in standing in that position. What I have to say to-night is largely governed by the point of view I have only been in Canada for two years. "Church union means that we shall come together pooling our various experiences and our special divergencies and with these make a new beginning. None of us living to-day will see this accomplished but our children and our children's children will in a land still young in a new born faith, a christian experience, a christian hope, younger, more exuberant, more vital and more courageous than the faith of their fathers."

"And for this synthesis the time is now ripe. Ever since the break up of the middle ages, the church and the world have been falling apart, as a result of the false principles on which during three centuries the unity of the Middle Ages was achieved.

"The church has been suffering by almost invincible sectarian differences. Some aspect of christian truth, some phase of the christian experience has been neglected in the current synthesis, and new bodies came into existence to affirm and confirm these neglected elements of faith. But it is plain that by now we have gone through the whole gamut of these various emphases and it is time to bring them together and gather them into a single whole. And nothing short of church union will do that. It cannot be done by joint committees; it cannot be done by limited co-operation in the Northwest. We must live together, we must think together, above all we must worship together and make not

a common but single cause in the enterprise of the Kingdom of God."

The Opponents of Union.

"And yet some of the opponents of union are living in the hope that they can defeat union. They say that they are going to fight it in parliament, in the courts, in the privy council. Neither parliament, nor court nor privy council can destroy what they do not create. We are not asking parliament to unite us; we are asking parliament to give us permission to hold property, that is all; and that is all parliament can do for us. Nobody is compelled to come in who does not want to; but the opponents of union in order to prevent those who want to go in from going in are going to call in the civil magistrate to help them. That is what may be properly called coercion, I think. And I confess great astonishment in this time of day that Presbyterians should involve the jurisdiction of Caesar.

"But supposing the opponents of union do carry their case to parliament and win, what then? Have they thought out what is to come after? Do they think they will prevent union? I am a Scotchman and I am in the habit of believing that I belong to a superior breed. And now the opponents of union are threatening a free church decision. Do they think that Presbyterians have become afraid of going into the wilderness in a good cause? Do they think that the loss of church property and the like will deter them from following the call of Christ? It has never yet done so and it will not do so to-day."

Principal Smythe.

Dr. Smythe, who is no stranger to Kingston audiences, dealt with the question of union in a masterly manner. He said when speaking of his personal experiences, that the first he heard of union was twelve years ago when he landed in Canada, and when asked by a newspaper man who met him at the boat as to his views on union, he remarked that he did not know much about the question in Canada, but he was very much in favor of the principle. He had appeared before the general Methodist conference and urged upon that body that church union should go ahead, and unless it did it would lose its enthusiasm by holding it over. It should be welded into the white heat of spiritual fervor. Dr. Smythe stated that he did not think that any great principle is being surrendered by any of the negotiating churches in entering this union. There are traditions which are held by many, but the multitude have sunk these principles, so that the matter of union can be a success. There is no great movement that will receive unanimous support, and if we wait until all are agreeable, we will never have union. There will always be dissenters to every movement and so long as we live, this union will never be unanimous. We should have a common purpose to deal with social evils, to evangelize and send the gospel to the heathen.

Too Many Bodies.

Dr. Smythe referred to the waste of men and means, especially in the rural churches, due to the fact that three or four churches are doing the work that could be accomplished by one, if union were consummated, while at the same time boys of seven and eight years of age in western Canada have never heard a Christian sermon. He referred to many cases where the ministers' hearts are sore, due to this overlapping, and in some places four preachers are competing in the preaching of the gospel. He made special reference to a convention held recently, where great numbers of Chinese were present, and where some of the Chinese almost begged the conference not to send them missionaries of many denominations; that they wanted to hear the simple gospel.

Dr. Smythe asked the question: "Is there anything that should keep us apart in the matter of church union?" And in answer to his own question, he said if there was, the onus is on those who would prevent church union taking place. He said that the new testament was the best manifesto of church union. To quibble over the name is foolishness—we are not going to disobey the teachings of either Knox or Wesley, and we will all remain loyal to our principles, and the world will be our parish, as it was in Wesley's time.

The spirit of union was prevalent in the choir, which was made up of musicians from the different city choirs, under the leadership of Miss Minnie Shaw, organist of Sydenham street church. The male quartette composed of Dr. Harold Angrove, G. S. Lyons, John Alexander and T. W. O. Fowler, sang "Still, Still With Thee."

Meeting Unique.

Those who took part in the programme were: Prof. John Matheson, who acted as chairman. Prof. W. Morgan, of Queen's Theological College, Rev. R. H. Bell, D.D., Rev. Dr. M. Macgillivray, Rev. Edwin H. Burgess, Rev. Dr. W. E. Lennon, and Rev. T. J. B. Ferguson.

Canon W. F. Fitzgerald, rector of St. Paul's Anglican church, pronounced the benediction.

The following who did not take part in the service occupied seats on the platform: D. G. Laidlaw, Dr. A. P. Chow, John Davis, Rev. Dr. Torrance, W. Hobart Dyde, H. W. Newman, C. B. Anglin, Dr. C. C. Nash, Prof. J. F. McFayden, Rev. W. G. A. Sisco, Rev. Baldwin, Hon. E. J. Davis, Prof. R. O. Joffe, Rev. Calvert, Rev. McMath, Rev. G. A. Bell and others.

A vote of thanks was extended to the speakers, on the motion of Prof.

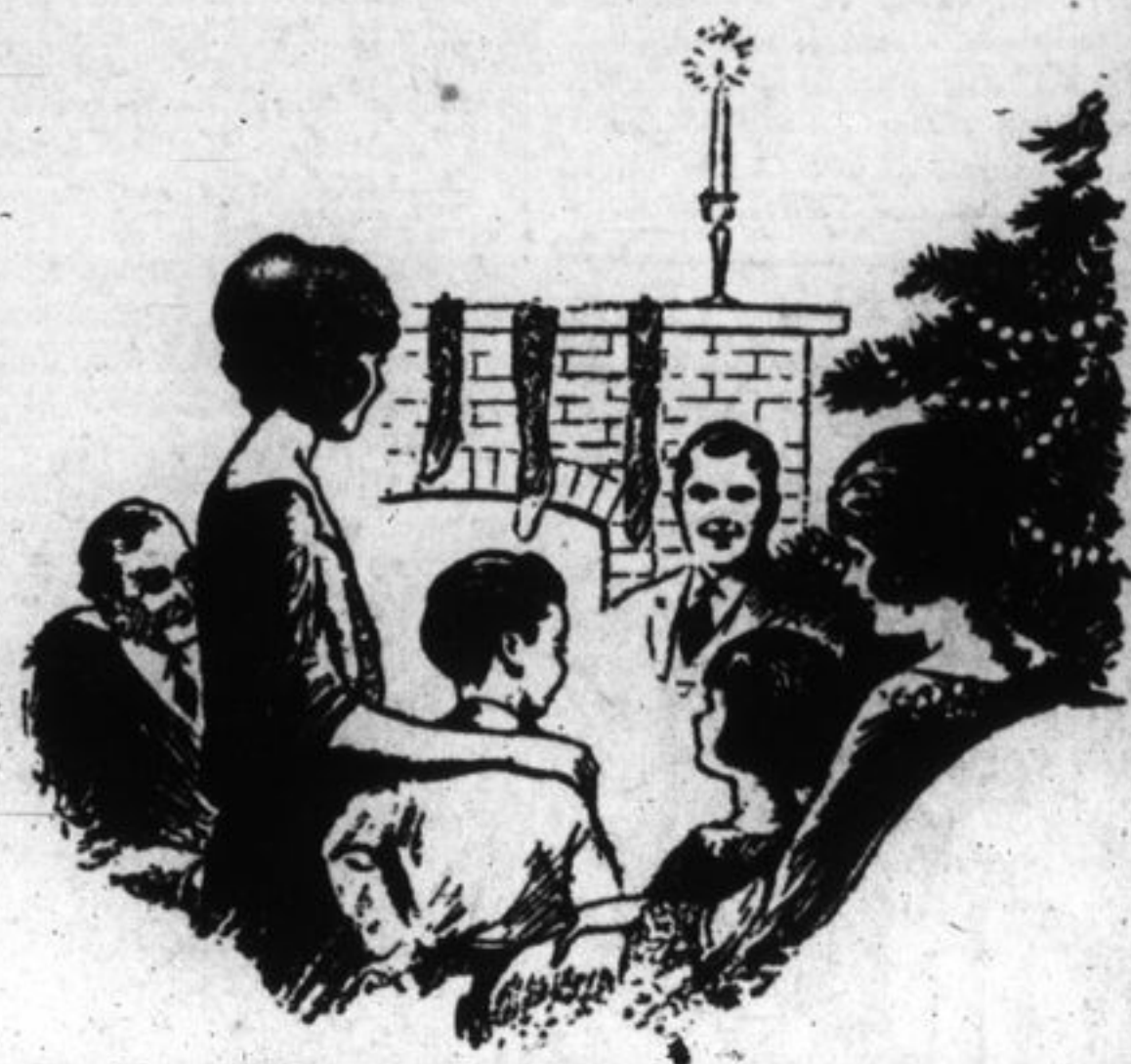
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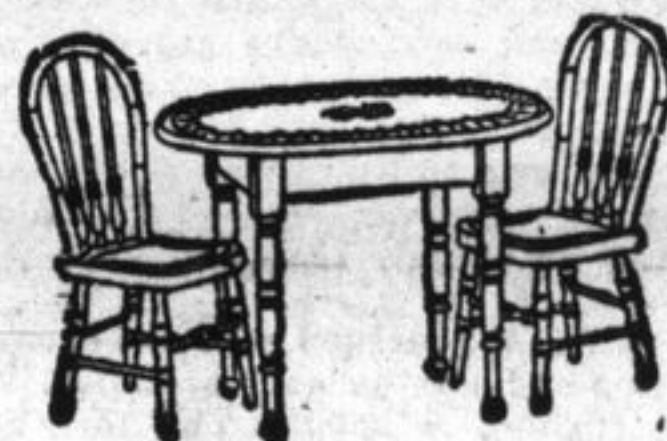


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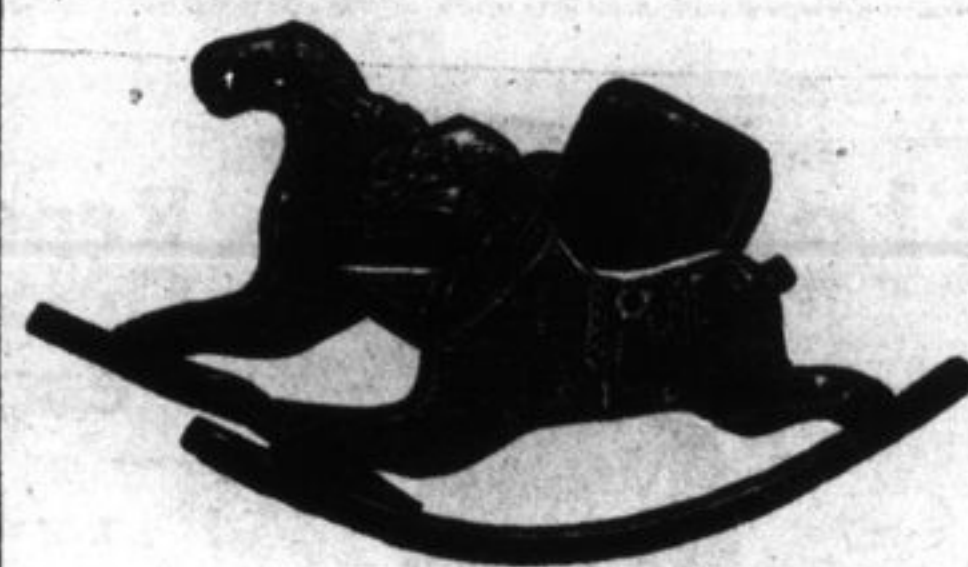
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W. T. MacClement, of Queen's, seconded by Elmer Davis. Both of these laymen referred in very complimentary remarks to the very capable and masterly addresses which had been given by the speakers of the evening. Judge H. A. Lavell, in proposing a vote of appreciation to Prof. J. Matheson, the chairman, referred to the most excellent manner in which he had handled the meeting. He said it was due to Prof. Matheson's energy and enthusiasm that this educative and inspiring gathering had become a reality. Judge Lavell referred to the two speakers as the two star "half-backs," but the team would not have been successful in making the score "54 to 0," without a star "quarter-back" in the person of Prof. Matheson. D. A. Shaw, when seconding the motion, said that he could well remember a meeting which was held in 1895 at Deseronto, when the chairman of the evening attended, and the matter of church union was discussed.

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