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## Aspects of Unification.

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Editor "The Christian Advocate,"  
New York City.

(Read at the Ecumenical Confer-

ence, Sept. 9th, London, England)

Methodists are accused with having a gift for boasting. Our denominational expansion has been so amazing that it makes us happy to talk about it, not only when we meet in family gatherings like this (when perhaps it is a proper topic of conversation), but in interdenominational councils, where it seldom starts spontaneous applause. My own Church, the Methodist Episcopal, has this bump of brag so well developed that a wag has dubbed as "Methodist Statistical," a name which will be hard to live down, for, like the precocious poet, we, too, have "Lisped in numbers ere the numbers came." But there is one form of numerical increase of which no American Methodist is proud. He likes to brag that there are so many million communicants, and so many tens of millions of adherents, but he relegates to the parenthesis and the agate footnote, the fact that there are no less than seventeen classified sorts and kinds of Methodist Churches in America.

I should like to have you consider American Methodist Unification as desirable, practicable and inevitable.

It is desirable that American Methodism should become one united body.

### UNION DESIRABLE.

1. Because the necessity is upon all Christian people to compose their non-essential differences and join heart and hand in the crusade for a Christian America and a Christian world. The rising tide of materialism was already threatening to drown the spiritual ideals of our nation long before the Great War burst all the dikes and flooded our national life with waves of extravagance, self-indulgence and godlessness. The pursuit of wealth and pleasure goes madly on to the indifference or scornful neglect of those ideas which—whether called Puritan or Methodist—have given the American Commonwealth its moral influence. To regain the lost ground and fight a winning battle against the demoralizing forces which are now at large requires the consolidation of every element of effective power. Methodism, with its firm faith in God, and its warm sympathy with men, is destined to hold the centre of the attacking column, but it cannot advance with divided forces and under rival commands. United we stand and drive the enemy. Divided we fall back, and the day is lost. Unity, therefore, should be our first and strongest desire.

2. Again, Methodist Union is desirable because without it we are spending men and money in wasteful rivalry. We are aggressive folk, we Methodists, and difficult people to keep within metes and bounds. Every page of our history shows this. Wesley's defiant, "I look upon all the world as my parish," is not only written on the tablet on yonder stately abbey. You may read it on every Methodist heart. It has led us into every land, preaching our message in every tongue. "No trespassing" signs are hard reading for Methodist eyes. Our manifest destiny is to expand. "It's better farther on," is one of our watchwords. But there should never be two Methodist preachers working at a one-man job, so long as there are countless tasks in America and the world with no man to send to them. We desire such a union of Methodism as shall release every man and every dollar from competitive activity for service in new and

undermanned fields. There is not enough Methodist gunpowder to allow a grain of it to be fired at fellow Methodists.

3. And why should I hesitate to say what is in the minds of all of you who perceive the trend of the times? Protestantism was never in such need of shock troops as now. No discerners of the signs of the times—not to say readers of the Roman Catholic press—can doubt that the Vatican has summoned all its resources in these post-war years of confusion and dismay to seize every advantage and push through every door that stands ajar. In America, as here and in France and Italy, that hierarchy which has everywhere revealed itself as a conspiracy against human freedom is grasping eagerly at power. The signal has been flashed out from Rome that the tide of Protestantism is receding; that the Reformation Churches have lost faith in the Bible; that they even question the divinity of their Christ; and that the time has come to recover all that Luther took away. The hope is aroused that one supreme effort at this crisis will turn the wavering world from the doubts and questionings of Protestantism back to the old Roman allegiance back to its moorings on the Rock of Peter. How shall Protestantism resist this drive without a united front? We have been taught to have a spiritual witness which is more satisfying than the "authority" of the Petrine Church. We have numbers, we have morale, we have access to people of every class, we have incomparable organization, we have a record of service to humanity. Yet we, who should be the solid foundation of Protestantism, are content to remain in fragments. May God, by some speedy miracle of Grace, transmute us into a monolith which nothing shall disintegrate or overthrow and which shall be to others like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

4. Finally, Methodist Union is desirable as an example and incentive to others. It is sad to confess that Protestantism has drawn so many lines of separation. In America this tendency to comminuted fracture has run wild. Our religious census lists hundreds of denominations, not only seventeen kinds of Methodists, but sixteen species of Baptists. Even such close-knit stuff as Presbyterians are made of has unravelled into eleven recognised Church bodies. All these are full fledged, with more or less denominational machinery, conventions, assemblies, moderators, presidents, and boards at the top, and at the bottom a multiplication of feeble congregations often competing for support in the same locality, living at a dying rate and wasting their denominational substance on doctor's bills in the form of home mission grants. It is true that union movements have been proposed in several of these groups. Certain Lutheran bodies have recently come together with results which should encourage all others to take the same steps. But American Protestantism will not make the plunge until some great and typically American group like the Methodists leads the way. The Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Churches are the proper ones to demonstrate its practicability. If they are successful, it takes no unusual prophetic faculty to forecast that within another decade the 12 million Methodists will be allied with a blue army of 10 million Presbyterians and a sea-going fleet of 10 million Baptists, and that these three evangelical bodies, loyal to Christ and friendly to each other,

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## "A VOTE AGAINST THE DYER BILL IS A VOTE FOR LYNCHING."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York, today announced the above as its slogan in the fight to have the Dyer anti-lynching bill enacted into law by the United States Congress.

A statement issued from the Association today and signed by James Weldon Johnson, calls upon colored people throughout the country to watch their representatives and senators. Mr. Johnson's statement reads as follows:

"The Department of Justice has gone on record in an opinion delivered by Judge Goff saying that the Dyer anti-lynching bill was constitutional. There is no longer any excuse why any representative of the American people should oppose a measure designed to end such a monstrous evil as mob murder.

"Every vote against the Dyer bill in the House of Representatives or in the Senate, is a vote for lynching.

"Every representative and every senator who dares to oppose this bill ought to be listed by colored voters throughout the United States and placed on record.

"The states have shown they can not or will not stop lynching. The federal government should now act. The Dyer bill gives the government the necessary authorization to act.

Woman in the United States to see to it that the Dyer bill is passed and that the name of every man in Congress who opposes that bill is put on record.

"A constant fire of telegrams and letters should be directed at your Congressmen so that they know without any shadow of doubt that their constituents want the bill passed."

## NATIONAL MEETING OF COLORED CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES IN WASHINGTON LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY.

Washington, D. C.

Announcement is made through the President, Rev. E. D. W. Jones, of the Committee of Seven, that a national meeting of Colored citizens will be called here in this city February 12th, 1922 for the purpose of deciding on some definite programme of racial activity. At a meeting held in the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. Monday afternoon to which the Editors of our Negro papers were called to endorse the movement, Mr. Finley Wilson of the Eagle, as president of the Press Association assured the Committee that the Colored Press of the Country would give such a meeting hearty support and that he would seek to have every Colored newspaper represented. Mr. LaVallé of the Tribune and Rev. Williams representing the Bee both spoke in highest terms of the proposed assembly and the Tribune will aid in the publicity.

It is the intention of the Committee of Seven to call the Presidents of every organization of racial uplift and citizens, from every state in the Union. Plans are already on the way and invitations have been sent to a number of those who are at the head of such organizations and to every state calling them to come and protest against wrongs, slights and injustices and to work for a united racial action.

Drs. Waldron, Pinn, Jarvis, Tanner, Henderson and Mr. Geo. Robinson will have the affair well on the way by Armistice day when the Committee will publicly announce its plans in connection with the celebration to be held at John Wesley Church the evening of November 11.

The slogan adopted is a United Race.

## North Carolina's Negro Program.

Education, Health, Agriculture, and Public Welfare Receive Attention.—Ignorance Cures Nothing.

By Wm. Anthony Aery.

Hampton, Va., Oct.—The present North Carolina program of Negro education and health—State and local—provides for spending \$4,000,000 in the near future. Some fifteen years ago North Carolina was spending about \$4,000,000 annually for the education of all its citizens—white and colored.

Dr. B. C. Brooks, State Superintendent of public instruction and Prof. N. C. Newbold, Director of the State division of Negro education, held a conference recently at Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., and presented to the leading Negroes of North Carolina—representative educators, ministers, business men, doctors, lawyers, lodge and club officers, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. workers, and editors—the State's unified programs of education, health, agriculture, and public welfare. This conference was held with a view to securing the active cooperation of the Negro leaders in spreading the good news of North Carolina's constructive program.

### State Appropriations.

That public sentiment is in favor of giving more adequate support to Negro education, health, agriculture, and public welfare is shown by the General Assembly appropriations which amount to \$235,000 and which include the following important items:

Buildings and equipment, three State normal schools, \$500,000; maintenance, three State normal schools (annual), \$75,000; Division of Negro education (annual), \$15,000; Teacher-training and private schools (annual), \$15,000; Teacher-training and summer schools (estimated, annual) \$20,000; High school and vocational education (estimated, annual) \$30,000; Building and improvement, Agricultural and Technical College, Greensboro, N. C., \$115,000; maintenance, A. and T. College, (annual) \$30,000; Building reformatory for Negro boys, \$25,000; Maintenance of reformatory (annual) \$10,000; Sanatorium for Negro Tubercular patients, \$100,000; total State appropriations, \$935,000.

### Square-deal Program.

Several hundred "missionaries of peace and good-will" received, in the spirit of real thanksgiving, the glad tidings of North Carolina's program for her Negro citizens' advancement. Governor Morrison, like his predecessor (the beloved Thomas W. Bickett,) stands solidly behind this liberal State program for Negroes. He has expressed his desire to give all the citizens of the State a square deal. He has the moral and financial support of the white citizens in this State-wide policy.

### Appeal for Co-operation.

"We have not reached the millennium in North Carolina," said Director Newbold. "We are, however, going in the right direction. Will you go back into your communities and oil the machinery of progress or will you throw rocks in the way? North Carolina is sincere in this work for its colored people. The State wants to make conditions better than they have ever been. Will you tell the leaders and the people about North Carolina's hopes and plans? We must all work together to make North Carolina what it should be. Our State cannot be what it should be unless she does what she should do for all classes."

### Ignorance Cures Nothing.

"Let us remember that ignorance is a cure for nothing. Let us pledge ourselves to carry out the Preamble

to the United States Constitution—to form a more perfect union, to insure justice, to provide for the common defense, to promote the general welfare, and to insure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

### Progress in Race Relations.

Dr. James Hardy Dillard, president of the Jeanes and Slater Boards, said, "North Carolina is the most progressive and forward-looking State of the South. Its program rests on the earth. The best way to improve race relations is to knock away the underpinning of ignorance. Education and the religion of Jesus Christ will do this work.

"Great forward movements are always slow. We must live here in friendship. We have no time to hate. We must do things. A righteous God rules the universe. We are headed right. Let us band together, those who try to love justice, courage and faith. There has been a steady progress toward better race relations during the last fifty years."

## UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION THROUGH ITS PRESIDENT PLEADS FAIR HEARING.

The Universal Negro Improvement Association, through its American Headquarters, is now holding a

press conference in Washington, D. C., at the Hotel Hamilton. Marcus Garvey, the Provisional President of Africa and President-General of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, made the following appeal to the Negro Press and preachers of America to-day:

"Why not be fair and constructive in your criticisms of good and new movements? Why not support a thing for the good that is in it, rather than condemn it because you are not at the head of it? Individuals like water, find their level. Thus the question of race development is not with the individual, it is with the measure; yet so many journalists and preachers of our race have condemned, written and spoken against the Universal Negro Improvement Association from personal feelings without knowing really what it stands for. This organization is striving for the complete emancipation of Negroes everywhere and for the freedom of Africa for all Negroes.

"No sensible Negro should oppose such a program, yet through jealousy and petty spite, a large number of our newspapers and preachers attack, the movement, thereby doing harm to the biggest moving force among Negroes for the liberation of all. Let us throw away our narrow-mindedness in public matters and support movements for the good in them, and not try to destroy them because we as individuals do not lead. I hope in time all the Negro newspaper men and preachers of America will come into the Universal Negro Improvement Association, for us to place the ablest men in the lead of the greatest Movement of Destiny, ever started within the last 500 years."

## QUARTERLY MEETING AT TROUTMAN.

At the Troutman, N. C., church where Rev. G. R. Glenn is the pastor, on October 9, 1921, was one of the best quarterly meetings ever held there. The sum of \$120.15 was raised. The pastor was paid for the year and \$10.50 as a surprise gift was donated to the Presiding Elder, Rev. Hawkins on a conference suit. Rev. Glenn has raised all claims and is now ready for the conference. The people at Troutman stand in themselves to carry out the Preamble class A No. 1.