

## CANADIAN UNITY.

Father Hodgkinson, of Woodstock, in leaving a parish with which he had been associated for over a quarter of a century, said:

"I don't care to which nation a man belongs—English, French, German, or any other. I believe there's some good in him somewhere, and it's my business to bring it out. I don't care to what race one may belong by the accident,—and it is an accident—of birth, if he's only a man and a good man, I respect him and I warm to him. Goodness is all I care for in any man, and I find it in all, though not in all alike. There's some good in everything God made, or He would not have made it, and the man who can't see some good in his fellow-man is either blind or bigoted, or both. To try and bring that good out is my creed. Let it be also yours."

There ought to be more utterances of this kind in Canada. It may be said that they are superfluous—that it ought to be taken for granted that there is no such thing as racial or religious prejudice in Canada. But, unhappily, that is not quite true. The population of Canada is so divided in

race and religion as to create danger of prejudice; while at the same time a good understanding is absolutely necessary to the development of a powerful, united nation.

Utterances like those of Father Hodgkinson were more common some years ago than they are to-day. That they have gone out of fashion does not necessarily mean that we have become more intolerant. People, perhaps, became weary of the repetition of these sentiments, and began to regard them as mere rhetoric, or as part of the regular stock-in-trade of public speakers. But the public men of the last generation dwelt upon this theme for substantial reasons. They knew Canada; they understood the difficulties of Canada; they had lived in a period when racial and religious prejudices seemed to threaten the very existence of Canada. They were talking, not as empty rhetoricians, but as practical statesmen.

The difficulties which they encountered still exist. Canada is still, as it was in their day, a country of great diversity in race and religion. Our new immigration has not solved the problem, and to a certain extent it has complicated the problem. There is not as much community of feeling as there ought to be between English and French, between Protestant and Catholic, between Ontario and Quebec, between Eastern Canada and Western Canada. The great safeguard against prejudice, the great influence for unity and good-will, is perseverance in such teaching as that of Father Hodgkinson. It must not be regarded as mere commonplace, as mere sentimental rhetoric. It is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of good relations between the various elements of the people of Canada.