

## A WONDERFUL THING IN RELIGION.

Our enterprising Jewish contemporary, the Tidings, prints a report of the ceremonies at the dedication of the new and grand synagogue in Cleveland and we are not going too far when we say that some of the things told of in the report are wonderful. Is it not a wonder that a half dozen of the Protestant ministers of Christianity united with the rabbi of the synagogue before the Jewish shrine in delivering discourses of exultation at the dedication of the edifice erected for the service of the congregation Tiffereth Israel?

We do not remember ever hearing of any other incident just like it.

The ceremonial services at the altar were conducted by an eminent young member of the rabbinate, Rabbi Moses Gries, assisted by Rabbi Moses Machol and the cantor. The six denominations of Protestant Christianity were represented by the six clergymen who took part in the proceedings of the occasion. One of these clergymen was an Episcopalian, and the others were a Presbyterian, a Methodist, a Congregationalist, a Disciple and the pastor of the Epworth Memorial church. It was immediately after the singing of "S'u Sh'orim" in the synagogue that Rabbi Gries offered them a welcome, in which he expressed his opinion that the time is coming when all God's people will be in close fellowship. Hereupon followed a deliverance by the Rev. Dr. Cyrus S. Bates (Episcopalian), who complimented Rabbi Gries in a way which, we may infer, must have been highly acceptable, then spoke of the magnificence of the new synagogue, moralized for awhile, and closed by saying: "Because there happens to be a difference between the faith of the Jew and that of the Christian, this is no reason why mutual love should not prevail." The Rev. Charles Townsend (Presbyterian) followed in the same strain, proclaiming his desire for greater unity between Jews and Christians. The Rev. Charles S. Mills (Congregationalist) was, as we are told by the Tidings, "generous in his congratulations," and exclaimed: "As Jews and Christians worship one God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we should unite for the spreading of the truth in America and for the solution of the problems which confront us." The Rev. Dr. E. O. Buxton (Methodist) spoke very happily in the synagogue. The Rev. Charles F. Creighton (Epworth Memorial church) told how he was impressed by seeing Jews and Christians join in a religious meeting and declared that by this spectacle he had got a new lesson of progress in liberal thought. The Rev. Harris R. Cooley (Disciple), in addressing Rabbi Gries, asked these significant questions: "Is there, after all, such a difference between us? Have we not one God?"

After these deliverances Rabbi Moses Machol brought to an end the synagogical ceremonies which had been opened by Rabbi Moses Gries.

Thus pleasantly and pleasingly spoke the six Protestant clergymen in the presence of the two rabbis, before the altar of the Jewish edifice erected in Cleveland by the congregation Tiffereth Israel.

We say this whole thing is wonderful. Was there ever another occasion upon which a half dozen Protestant clergymen of as many denominations united with two rabbis at the dedication of a synagogue? The clergymen judiciously refrained from making any allusion to the gospels in that place. We guess they were more shrewd than the Apostle Peter or the Apostle Paul would have been under the circumstances. Their conduct, as one of them took occasion to remark, gave evidence of the progress of liberal thought in the community. The conduct of Rabbi Gries, also, in inviting the ministers, gave evidence of this new kind of progress among the Jewish people.

It seems to us that the thing here told of deserves to rank among the wonders of the nineteenth century, which, for all we can say, may be far surpassed by those of the approaching twentieth century.—New York Sun.