

POETRY.

A MORAL ON BUTTERFLIES.

BY CHARLES DOYNE SILLERY, ESQ.

Minions of nature!—Creatures of the skies!  
Ye bright-wing'd flutterers! sunborn butterflies!  
From flower to flower o'er nectar'd fields ye go,  
Peerless in beauty! atoms of the bow!

Ye living gems! ye fairy-formed things!  
Floating in bliss, on gold-bespangled wings!  
Oh! how enraptured would this spirit be,  
Freely to soar through ambient heavens, as ye!

Where is the silken shroud? the grov'ling worm?  
Where now the veil which once enshrined each form?  
Where the cold, lifeless chrysalis of clay?  
In gold! in glory! in the blaze of day!

I pause and ponder here.—Like you, mankind  
Are born, frail insect! ignorant and blind;  
Man's mind—his heart, in dust and darkness furl'd,  
His bright soul's clouded by a wintry world.

But when this dream of life hath pass'd away—  
When this pure spirit bursts her bonds of clay;  
Ah! then what hope to trembling man is given—  
The bless'd shall mingle with the blaze of heaven!

Eccelesiastical Intelligence.

UNION OF PRESBYTERIANS IN IRELAND.

On the 28th ultimo, the Committees, appointed by the Synod of Ulster and the Secession Synod, mutually to consider the practicability of the union of those two bodies, held their first meeting. I was disabled by circumstances from attending, though a member of our Committee, but I am able to say the spirit by which the proceedings were characterised was most brotherly and most faithful. It was truly refreshing to see aged and venerable men, whom the narrow limits of sect and party had hitherto kept separate, stepping over these boundaries, and, under the very best feelings of charity, recognising one another as faithful brethren and resolving upon the best method of permanent and efficient union as one Church of the same Lord in all time coming.

*Statement of the Proceedings of the Committees of the General Synod of Ulster, and the Presbyterian Synod of Ireland, distinguished by the name of Seceders, appointed to consider the expediency and practicability of the Union of the two Synods.*

Agreeably to the direction of the two Synods, at their last meetings, the Committees appointed to confer upon the subject of union, met in the Presbyterian Church, Fisherwick Place, on the 28th of August.—On the motion of the two Moderators, the United Committees agreed to elect as Chairman the senior minister present, when the Rev. Thos. Miller of Cookstown was chosen, and the meeting was opened with prayer. The Rev. George Bellis was requested to act as Secretary. A general conversation ensued on the best method of conducting the deliberations of the meeting, when the following resolutions were agreed to:—

1. "That union amongst Christian Churches for mutual edification and for the extension of the Gospel, is agreeable to the Scriptures, and at all times highly desirable."

2. "That the leadings of Divine Providence seem to favour a union between those Presbyterian Churches in Ireland, that maintain the doctrinal standards of the Church of Scotland, in the profession of which they were originally planted."

3. "That whereas the General Synod of Ulster did appoint a Committee to consider of this matter, and the Presbyterian Synod of Ireland, distinguished by the name of Seceders, did appoint another Committee for the same purpose—these Committees, now in joint meeting assembled, do proceed to consider the details of a union, upon the principle that each Synod receives the Westminster Confession of Faith, as founded on, and agreeable to the Holy Scriptures, in the same manner as it was received by the Church of Scotland in the year 1647."

These resolutions having been unanimously adopted, a Sub-Committee, consisting of an equal number from each Committee, was appointed to prepare a course of proceeding, and submit, in a digested form, the various subjects that should be considered and discussed by the Joint-Committee. After deliberation, the Sub-Committee submitted their report, when it was resolved by the Joint-Committees—

1. "That the Synods respectively acknowledge each other as equal and co-ordinate church courts."

2. "The Committee of the Synod of Ulster, for the information and satisfaction of their brethren of the Secession, state, that the Synod of Ulster require from all candidates for license or ordination, subscription

to the Westminster Confession of Faith, in the following words, viz:—"I believe the Westminster Confession of Faith to be founded on, and agreeable to the Word of God, and as such subscribe it as the Confession of my Faith; that the practice of their Presbyteries is uniform in this matter, and a report of their faithfulness annually made to the Synod; that the Synod of Ulster maintains the rights of the people in the election of ministers and other office-bearers, without any interference or control whatsoever of private patrons, or of the state; and that as a court of Christ the Synod is perfectly free in all matters of doctrine, order, and discipline, from the interference or control of any other Church."

3. "The Committee of the Secession Synod, for the information and satisfaction of their brethren of the Synod of Ulster, state, that the Secession Synod require from all candidates for license or ordination subscription and acknowledgment of the Confession of Faith, in answer to the following question:—

"Do you sincerely own and believe the whole doctrines contained in the Confession of Faith, Larger and Shorter Catechisms, compiled by the Assembly of Divines that met at Westminster, with Commissioners from the Church of Scotland, as the said Confession and Catechisms were received and approved by the acts of the General Assembly 1647, and 1648, to be founded on the Word of God, and do you acknowledge the said confession and catechisms, as the confession of your faith?" That the practice of their several Presbyteries is uniform in this matter, and a report of their faithfulness annually made to the Synod. They farther desire to state, that as individuals and as a Church Court, they continue to approve, profess, and maintain the original principles of the fathers of the Secession in their faithful witness-bearing and labours, for soundness of doctrine, strictness of discipline, and the assertion and maintenance of the rights of Church members; and that as a Church Court they are perfectly free in all matters of doctrine, order, and discipline, from the interference or control of any other Church."

4. "The Joint-Committees mutually acknowledging, that the modes of receiving candidates for license or ordination, as practised in their respective Synods, are equally satisfactory, do yet resolve to recommend the adoption of one common formula and practice as a part of the basis of union."

5. "The Joint-Committees agree to recommend, that it be recognised as a principle of the contemplated union of the Synods, that all ruling elders, before being considered qualified to sit in the Church Courts or otherwise to exercise the office of elders, shall produce documentary evidence of their free election, public ordination and subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith."

6. "The Joint-Committees agreed to recommend, that it be acknowledged as a principle of the contemplated union, that any member or elder known to maintain or teach doctrines contrary to the Westminster Confession, shall be amenable to the discipline of the United Church."

7. "The Joint-Committees resolve to recommend the recognition and adoption of public baptism, as agreeable to Scripture, to the nature and ends of the ordinance, and the original practice of the Presbyterian Churches in these kingdoms."

8. "The Joint-Committees resolve to recommend, that every election of office-bearers shall be at least by a majority of communicants; and that the amount of stipend paid by electors shall not be calculated in the decision."

9. "That the contemplated union be formed with an earnest desire, prayer, and resolution, to seek, obtain, and enforce increased strictness of discipline in the admission, oversight, or, when need demands, the exclusion of members."

10. "In the event of union, the designation of the united bodies shall be, 'The Presbyterian Church in Ireland,' and that of its supreme court, 'The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.'"

11. "It is recommended that the Moderators be directed to call meetings of their respective Synods at Belfast, on Wednesday, the 8th of April next, to receive and deliberate on the reports of the Committees."

12. "The Joint-Committees do now adjourn till Tuesday the 7th of April next, at five p. m. in Fisherwick Place."

These resolutions are now published for the information of the ministers and congregations of both Synods.

The Joint-Committees are happy to state, that the spirit in which the entire business was conducted was most pleasing. There was a delightful manifestation of the unity of brethren. No unpleasant difference of opinion arose, while every topic was canvassed with the utmost freedom. The Committees now recommend this subject to the prayerful consideration of the members of their respective churches, in the humble hope that he who is head over all things to his body, the Church, and who has prayed

that his disciples may all be one, will order these proceedings to the advancement of his kingdom and glory.

(Signed by order.)

GEORGE BELLIS, Secretary.

Belfast, 29th August, 1839.

DISTINGUISHED LIBERALITY.

GLASGOW—GREYFRIER'S CHURCH.—The following is the "Abstract Statement" of the subscriptions for missionary and other religious purposes, in this congregation, as it appears in the report read at the annual meeting, on the 3d of April, 1837;—

Amount of Subscriptions to the Foreign Mission, as per list, - - - - -	£276 3 0
Amount subscribed towards building a church for the Rev A. Kennedy, Port of Spain, Trinidad, as per list, - - -	218 11 9
Amount of Subscriptions to the Society for religious purposes, as per list. -	379 19 5
Aid to weak congregations from collections and subscriptions not formerly included, including collection to Synod Fund, - - - - -	116 2 0
	£990 16 2

Amount paid to the poor of the Congregation during the past year, from collections at the church-door, - - - -	236 12 0
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In addition to the above, there has been received to aid in the erection of Mr. Kennedy's Church, Port of Spain, Trinidad,—

From Mr. Schaw's congregation, Ayr, - - -	£5 0 0
A few friends in Ayr, - - -	3 14 0
	8 14 0

Collected at the Lectures on the State of Religion on the Continent, by the Rev. David King, in his own church, and which has been remitted to aid in the erection of a place of worship at Paris, - - - - -	25 0 0
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Total, - - - - - £1261 2 2

As this congregation is so highly distinguished for its liberality in the missionary cause, we presume that a few facts in regard to it, selected from the second report of "The Commissioners of Religious Instruction," will not be unacceptable to our readers.

The number of communicants in this congregation, as stated in the report, is 820; of these 500 belong to the poor and working classes. The number of sittings in the church is 1522; of which 1280 are let,—the average rate of a sitting being about 8s. 6d. the highest rent 18s.—242 are unlet. The amount of seat rents, on the average of five years, is stated at £550; of ordinary collections, £266; of extraordinary, £80. The debt upon the church is at present above £900; but as the congregational property adjoining the church is valued at £6000, the real debt upon the congregation may be stated as above 3000. The minister received a salary of £370, including sacramental expenses; an annuity of £100 is paid to the widow of the late honoured pastor; and, out of the ordinary collections, the sums given to the poor for the last two years have been £240, and £236, respectively. The extraordinary collections have been made in-aid of weak congregations and other missionary and benevolent institutions, not immediately connected with the proper Missionary exertions of the congregation. We find, for instance, from the congregational report, that the following, among others, have been liberally aided by the congregation:—The Glasgow Missionary Tract, and Bible Societies; the Irish Evangelical Society; the Baptist Serampore Mission; the Synod Mission Fund; and considerable sums have been remitted to Strasburg and Lyons, to aid Messrs. Major and Corde, of these cities, in their Missionary exertions. A balance of nearly £40 is retained also in the hand of the Treasurer, for the proposed Secession Mission to the South Seas. In addition to these, the congregation supports a Missionary of its own in the West Indies, at the annual expense of £300; a Missionary at Oban, at about £60 per annum; two city Missionaries, at £40 each; a school for destitute children, attended by about 160 scholars, at an annual expense of £40; and a Christian instruction Society, the expense of which amounts to nearly the same sum. Last year, it will be seen from the Abstract Statement given above, an extraordinary contribution to the amount of £218 was raised in the congregation, towards the erection of a church for Mr. Kennedy in the island of Trinidad; this year, we have heard, a far greater exertion still, of the same kind, has been made,—the sum of £1100 having been subscribed among the members of the congregation, to the new fund for aiding weak congregations at home, in erecting churches and liquidating debt. The words of king Lemuel may with propriety be applied to this congregation, "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."—United Secession Magazine.