

ters and members of both Churches, that could such a consummation be attained, it would have the best effects in greatly strengthening the cause of Presbyterianism, enlarging its sphere of usefulness, and advancing the kingdom of Christ. The desire thus largely entertained from the commencement, gained strength, and became more and more practically operative, as the negotiations proceeded, and as our acquaintance with each other became more extended and intimate. Those negotiations were brought to a successful and happy close at the *interim* meetings of the two Synods, in Toronto, in October last, when such conclusions were arrived at, on both sides, as were mutually satisfactory; and the results of the long and anxious, and, we trust, prayerful deliberations, which had been conducted, were embodied in a Basis of Union, in which the two Synods concurred, and on which they agreed to unite and become one Church. It was also agreed that the union should be consummated at the meetings of the Synods to be held in the city of Montreal on the first Tuesday of June next.

We subjoin for your information a copy of the Basis:

BASIS OF UNION.

The Presbyterian Church of Canada, and the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, believing that it would be for the glory of God, and for the advancement of the Cause of Christ in the land, that they should be united, and form one Church, do hereby agree to unite on the following Basis, to be subscribed by the Moderators of the respective Synods, in their name and behalf; declaring, at the same time, that no inference from the fourth article of said Basis is held to be legitimate, which asserts that the civil magistrate has the right to prescribe the faith of the Church, or to interfere with the freedom of her ecclesiastical action; further, that unanimity of sentiment not required in regard to the practical applications of the principle embodied in the said fourth article; and that, whatever differences of sentiment may arise on these subjects, all action in reference thereto shall be regulated by, and be subject to, the recognized principles of Presbyterian Church order:

I. OF HOLY SCRIPTURE.—That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being the inspired Word of God, are the supreme and infallible rule of faith and life.

II. OF THE SUBORDINATE STANDARDS.—That the Westminster Confession of Faith, with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, are received by this Church as her Subordinate Standards.

But whereas certain sections of the said Confession of Faith, which treat of the power or duty of the civil magistrate, have been objected to as teaching principles adverse both to the right of private judgment in religious matters, and to the prerogatives which Christ has vested in his Church, it is to be understood: