

said that "some long-headed men" are in doubt as to the wisdom of taking away any of the stones that are tied to the neck, seeing that their weight will weigh it all the sooner! There are plenty of men who will oppose our movement on this ground, that patronage tends to sink us, and that it is their interest to make us keep it. Let us tell these men—that genial Christian brother included—what they ought to know very well already, that we are not swimming against our life, that the Kirk was never stronger, heartier, happier than she is now; never more inclined to work, and never more conscious that there is a great work lying ready to her hand. (Applause.) Let us show them—what they also know very well—that our power is growing; that in country parishes and country towns over all the land men are returning to the Church to their fathers, well assured that she is faithful, and that she is free; that she is well worthy of the best they can do for her. (Applause.) But let me, in a single word, say that there are many, very many, who, although not of us, are with us in this matter, who look on our movement as tending to broaden the foundations of the National Church, and thereby to pave the way for a union, whether of co-operation or of incorporation, which shall bring light to many dark regions in our own land, and turn many of the waste places of the earth into fruitful fields. There are many on our presses like a heavy burden the fate of our great cities and most of our towns and mining districts, and who are ready to cease from strife, and to set themselves with us to do the work of our Lord and Master. In spite of all that some implacable foes are doing, Christians of every creed, and especially Scottish Presbyterians of every name, are drawing more closely together, and saying clearly that not by strife but by unity is the best strength of every nation of Christ's Church to be promoted.

The day seems to me to be coming nearer, and coming very fast, when all this great city, when all our native land, shall be divided anew for ecclesiastical and religious purposes, when endowments of religion shall be found attached to every church as the poor man's patrimony, and when with the endowment

shall be joined the generous voluntary contributions of the congregation, making a bond between minister and people that is a blessing to both. For my own part, I can only say again what I have often said before, that to secure an endowed territorial church, which is the only efficient home mission, I would gladly see the old parishes subdivided, the old teind endowments shared, not for the benefit of the present Church of Scotland, but on terms fair and equal to all our brethren, so that all the branches of the Presbyterian Church should be joined together again in unity, activity, and power. Everything for union—not that union may give political ascendancy, but that it may secure efficiency in those home missions, which, amid the strifes of Churches, have been so fearfully neglected. Then would Christ be proclaimed in word and deed as King of the Nation and Head of the Church; then would we be able to point to a revived Church and a religious people as witnesses for Christ's Crown and Covenant."

Colonel Mure, of Caldwell, in one of the best speeches of the evening, moved the third resolution, and Bailie Watson seconded it: and Dr. Norman Macleod came third and Chief.

"Is it," he asked, "any sign of death that we have added one-tenth to the parochial system since 1843—that our missions have been vigorously prosecuted—that in one parish there had been seven new churches built, and as many voluntarily endowed in a single parish—that we are beginning to add ten new churches in Glasgow, and that we have raised, not by compulsion, from £120,000 to £140,000 a year? I don't say that we have raised as much as others, for I have often said that no mortal man can swim for health as long as he will swim for his life."

Mr. J. A. Campbell moved the fourth resolution, "that petitions should be presented to Parliament." Speaking of what the Church had done in the last 27 years, and of the heroism of those who would not desert the ship, he said:

"The filling up of our 474 empty churches was as much a work of church progress as the organising of new congre-