

# THE MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

## Church of Scotland

IN

NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, & ADJOINING PROVINCES.

VOL. XVIII.

FEBRUARY, 1872.

No. 2.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING."—Ps. 137: 5.

We regret the absence from our pages in our present issue, of the usual amount of original matter. We cannot understand why there should not be more writing done by ministers and others. It is certainly not because there is nothing interesting to write about, for almost every letter, private or otherwise, which we receive, contains one or more "items" which ultimately find their way into our pages. We hope that in future numbers we shall have a better supply.

"That they may be one." He who reads the signs of the times must rejoice to see the closer fellowship and friendly feeling manifested by the two Established Churches of the United Kingdom. In the present issue, we draw attention, by extracts, to the fact that men of the very highest standing as clergy of the Church of England have taken advantage of the freedom of the Church of Scotland, and have preached the gospel from her pulpits. Such interchange has a good and beneficial effect, not in anticipation of an absorption by one Church

of the other, but in developing that charity between the different members of Christ's flock which he meant there should be when he gave the "New Commandment," from which Dean Stanley preached in Old Grey Friars', Edinburgh.

The subject of union is eliciting some comment from writers in the religious newspapers. There seems to be some misapprehension on the part of such writers as to the union under the consideration of the different Presbyterian Churches of British North America. There seems to be a desire for a union of the different Synods, locally contiguous, *i. e.*, that, for example, the Churches of the Lower Provinces should unite first and then consider the larger union.—But such is not the question before the negotiating Churches at all; the question before them is one of a grand large comprehensive union, to which question we have simply to say yes or no. If the larger union falls to the ground, we will be in a position to consider the smaller, but not till then.