

the Red River Settlement. There are not fewer than from 350 to 400 trained in the colleges of Halifax and Canada since their commencement. We have also had to impart spiritual aid to seven or eight stations in the United States where Scotchmen are settled, and our arrangements with the United States Presbyterian churches about these stations have been of a very agreeable kind. (Applause.) Both in the maritime provinces and in Canada an important union was lately consummated between the Presbyterian churches more immediately in alliance with you and the brethren of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada—(applause)—and the brethren of the church in Nova Scotia not marked exactly by the same designation, but still substantially part and parcel of the same great body. In regard to both these unions a considerable period has been permitted to elapse before the consummation took place. Now that that consummation has been completed, the results are advantageous, and one reason is that both in the one country and the other, our impression is that the great principle which for some years had separated the brethren, has been arranged in such a way as was consistent with the leading principles that we, as members of the Free Church entertained, and do entertain. ('Oh, oh,' from Dr. Begg.) The principle on which we set a high value, not higher than it was entitled to, stands with us still. I am quite aware that there has been a feeling in certain quarters that there has been some ambiguity in the terms employed. That feeling was cherished by some at the time of the union. I have always maintained that in both unions the principle is substantially the same. 'Hear, hear,' from Dr. Begg and the left of the chairman.) And we have gone on in the spirit of love. Many points there are unquestionably of mutual forbearance. (Loud cries of 'Hear, hear,') We agreed together in holding the great principle of the Headship of Christ over the nation.—(cheers and counter cheers)—comprehending in that not a general and vague idea of certain Christian influences to be diffused over the whole masses. We have not been satisfied with that. ('Hear, hear,' from the left of the chair.) We have maintained that nations as such, and the rulers of this world in their legislative and executive capacity, are bound to act under the laws of Christ, and to give their influence in helping on the cause of Christ. (Renewed applause from the left of the chair.) At the same time, in regard to the question of the time and circumstances and mode in which financial aid is to be given, we did allow forbearance. (Loud applause from the right of the chair and all parts of the house.) On that subject liberty was given in both Provinces to hold varied opinions. (Renewed applause.) But in regard to the great obligation laid on rulers to own the authority of Christ in all things, and when circumstances in providence call for it, to consecrate their influence and substance—('hear, hear,' from Dr. Begg, and laughter)—that principle we hold—only at the same time we allow a latitude of opinion as to the way in which that principle may be developed.