

THE GOOD NEWS.

July 1st, 1861.

POSTAGE.

We are sorry to say to our subscribers that the Postmaster General has ordered our publications to be rated for postage.—We are of opinion that they are exempt according to law; but the Postmaster General differs from us, and consequently our subscribers are obliged to submit.

The postage is one cent per copy, or 12½ cents per annum when paid in advance.

THE UNION.

We had the privilege of witnessing the consummation of the Union between the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and the United Presbyterian Church, which took place in the Wesleyan Methodist Church Montreal, on the 6th of June. It was the most important ecclesiastical event that Canada has seen for many a day, and it rather added to the interest, that it took place in the large edifice so kindly placed at the disposal of the Presbyterians by the Wesleyan brethren. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in Unity,—Psal cxxxii. 1."

The people began to gather about half past six in the evening, and by the time the members of the respective synods arrived, at a few minutes past seven, the number assembled was large. The reserved seats were filled by members of both Synods alternately seated. The platform was filled by the Moderators and former Moderators of both Synods, and the whole assemblage was one of the most interesting sights we have seen in Canada.

The Meeting was opened by Rev. Dr. Thornton, of Whitby, giving out a part of the CII. Psalm, which was sung by the great assemblage standing. The CXXXII. Psalm was then read, and prayer

was offered by Dr. Thornton. The U. P. and Free Church Synod rolls were then read by the Synod Clerks, most of the members answering to their names.

The Clerk of the U. P. Synod then read a report to the effect that the Union of the two Churches had been decided upon after mature deliberation and submission to all the Church courts, and that they now met to complete the said Union. The Clerk of the Free Church Synod read a similar report of resolutions passed by the Free Church. The articles of Union were then read, the members of both Synods standing. The respective Moderators then formally declared the Union consummated, and in token thereof shook hands, which was the signal for a general shaking of hands, between the members of both Synods on the platform and through the body of the Church. This ceremony was performed in a hearty and cordial manner.

Dr. Thornton then declared the first Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church constituted. After which on the motion of the Rev. Mr. Clark, of Quebec, the Rev. Dr. Taylor was appointed first Moderator of the United Synod.

The speeches which followed from the Moderator, the Rev. Mr. Ure, of Streetsville, the Rev. Dr. Ormiston of Hamilton, and the Rev. Dr. Burns of Toronto were excellent, worthy of the occasion and calculated not only to interest the hearers, but to impress upon them the most solemn truths. We would have favored our readers with an epitome of them, but expect to have it in our power to give some of them in full in this or next issue.

We congratulate the members of the United Church on the completion of their hope after the difficulties and delays which for some years hindered them. We trust and pray that it may prove for the advancement of the Kingdom of God in Canada. We have no doubt this object was the motive that prompted the efforts of