

The Rev. Dr. Thornton reported verbally the proceedings of the Committee on Union, in their conferences with the Committee on Union of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and submitted as the result of the deliberations of the Joint Committees, the Basis of Union as unanimously adopted by them in the following terms:—

#### BASIS OF UNION

*Between the United Presbyterian Church of Canada, as agreed upon by Joint Committees of both Churches, 1st August, 1860.*

WHEREAS, for the glory of God and the welfare of the Church, it is desirable that a Union should be effected between the "United Presbyterian Church" and the "Presbyterian Church of Canada," on such terms as may be agreeable to the Word of God, and the standards accepted by both Churches: Whereas, also, it is expedient that a Basis of Union, in terms of the six articles which follow, be adopted, as a statement of principles in regard to which the Churches are mutually agreed: Whereas, besides, it is desirable to prevent any possible misapprehensions in reference to the fourth of said Articles, it is therefore *herby declared*, that no inference from that Article is 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: And it is further declared, that, in regard to the practical applications of said fourth Article, unanimity of sentiment is not required in the united body, and that if any particular case should emerge, it may, and can only be considered and determined by the Church Courts, in accordance with the general principles and procedure of Presbyterian Churches:

Be it therefore resolved,—

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, 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