

should be cultivated between the two bodies, if it shall be found that such correspondence is not prohibited by the standards of the Secession Church."

3. "That the Synod send a deputation of their number to the next meeting of the Synod of the United Associate Church, to express their high respect for that body, and their desire for its prosperity and welfare, and to make proffer of the intercourse referred to as the most likely method of promoting mutual acquaintance and removing prejudice, and thus of ultimately effecting an incorporated Union."

It was felt on both sides, at this stage, that the parties were not yet prepared for Union; and from various occurrences, little or nothing was done in this matter for several years afterwards. To some of these causes of hinderance we have referred in preceding communications, such as, on the side of the Relief, Mr. Smith's proposal to join the Establishment rather than the Secession, which led, as we have seen, to a serious law-suit, respecting the Relief place of worship in Campbleton, which litigation induced the Rev. Dr. Struthers to prepare and publish his valuable History of the Relief Church, by which the public in general, and especially the United Secession Church, obtained a more full and accurate knowledge of the true character of the Relief denomination, which this work placed in a favourable light. But the continued agitation on the Voluntary question, in particular reference to the applications by the Establishment for Church extension and additional endowments, requiring to be strenuously resisted by Dissenters, so much engrossed the attention of the United Secession Synod, and the Relief Synod, that there was no time, and little seeming inclination to enter fully on the subject of Union. Again, the Morisonian controversy, of which we have given an account, and finally the disruption in the Church of Scotland, occasioned such interruption in the negotiations for Union, that the matter seemed for a time to be set aside. There were, however, occasional intercourses by letters and deputations, and the great object, which many longed to see, was never entirely abandoned.

During this state of suspense which these movements occasioned, the Committees which had been appointed on both sides, held a meeting in July, 1838. Their intercourse was conducted to the satisfaction of all parties, and various subjects of common interest came before them,—such as the subject of Free Communion, the mode of admitting members to Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the manner of electing Ministers and Elders, &c., &c. On these subjects, as might be expected, slight differences existed, but on the whole, there was much similarity of procedure.

In April, 1839, another meeting of this Joint Committee took place, when they agreed,—“That a copy of these minutes,” (that is of the minutes of their present meeting,) be transmitted to their respective Synods, with an expression of lively gratitude to God, that the difficulties that seemed to impede the Union have in a great measure disappeared on discussion, of the high pleasure and pure satisfaction which the Members of the Joint Committee have enjoyed in their friendly and harmonious meetings; and recommend to their several Church Courts to take such measures as may lead to a Union as soon as consistent with general satisfaction.”

When this report was laid before the United Secession Synod, in June, 1839, it resolved itself into a Committee of the whole house, and after full