

loving people in both the Churches, constituting a large majority ; and of triumph to Satan, whose maxim is "keep them divided, and this will still be greatly to the advantage of my kingdom of darkness and evil."

The writer of this paper would earnestly and respectfully call on all the members of our Synod who shall be at Toronto, to consider seriously and prayerfully their great individual responsibility to Christ, the head of His Church, and whose special will is that all his followers may be one,—for the manner in which they feel, and think, and speak, and act, on this momentous business. Let them be gently warned against any merely personal, or hitherto sectional feelings. Let a noble, and generous, and comprehensive desire for Union duly subordinate every petty consideration. Let there be a sincere willingness to make every concession to brethren in the other Church, not incompatible with an approving conscience. (It is hoped that this readiness to conciliation, on the part of brethren, will be mutual.) Let there be a calm and far extending contemplation of the many strong grounds and reasons which exist for uniting, compared with the single point on which there is difference of opinion—a difference consisting more in shades of meaning connected with words, than in any real and broad contrariety of sentiment ; at most a difference not relating to any thing essential in the "system of doctrine," held firmly and faithfully in both the Churches,—but only to a question as to the duty of the civil power respecting religion, and that question one, as exhibited in the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chap. XXIII, with respect to which both Churches have formerly, and irrespective of union, found it necessary to adopt a qualifying clause. Surely, then, on this question, which is not at all likely to become a practically test-question in these latter days,—a reciprocally honourable understanding may be come to, by the candid minds of enlightened Christian men, who should avail themselves of the wise, but not rash enlargement of views, obtained since the Westminster Confession was framed and adopted, more than two hundred years ago. That venerable and masterly book will ever be a glorious monument to the praise of the Assembly of Theologians who constructed it, but who at that time, and in their peculiar circumstances, could not have been expected to have got clear and thorough notions concerning the separate distinction between the Church and the civil Government. And as to any partly conflicting views on the subject that may still be entertained by some it would not only be a great pity, but it would be wrong, that these views should be allowed to stand in the way of a most desirable Union, to which there is no other barrier.

May HE who has the hearts of all men in his hand, at the approaching meeting of the two Synods, open up to them a straight course by which they may soon, if not presently, meet as one body, and occupy a sound platform of Union, from which all may go forth, individually, and collectively as local Presbyteries, to labour zealously and harmo-