

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

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Our readers no doubt have observed that for some months past, our columns have contained very little matter bearing upon the question of Presbyterian Union. Few articles have been sent to us on the subject: and we are inclined to think, that the interest felt in it some time ago, has, to a certain extent, cooled down, if it has not, in some quarters, entirely disappeared. Knowing that the very name of union is unpleasant to some of our brethren, and that the sight of an article in favour of it, in our columns, sorely exercises them, we have written nothing ourselves of late, being desirous to lead a quiet life. Nay, we have even gone the length of not copying any news from other journals which referred to this "quæstio vexata." For all this we hope that the opponents of union will give us due credit; we modestly feel that we deserve it.

In our last number we thought that we had been exceedingly guarded in keeping out all union matter; and, excepting a brief notice of affairs in New Zealand, we supposed that we had succeeded. But on looking over our pages more carefully we find that our vigilance had been sleeping, and that the subject had, almost unknown to us, got into one of our communications, viz, into that one, giving an account of a social meeting of St. Paul's congregation in Montreal. At this meeting, (and having been present, we can testify that it was a very agreeable gathering, and that all who had the good fortune to be there had a remarkably pleasant time of it,) both Mr. Snodgrass the minister of the congregation, and Dr. Taylor of the Canada Presbyterian Church, who was assisting his reverend brother in "cultivating the social principle" with his people, seem to have made the subject of union the staple of their two speeches, and our readers will agree with us when we say, that they both discoursed very briefly and very sensibly there-upon.

For ourselves we are bound in candour to state that we do not think that any advance whatever has been made towards union for some time back. Nay more, we are inclined to think, and we say so with sorrow and regret, that we are farther from union now than we were some time ago. We are of opinion, that in Montreal and its neighbourhood, the feeling on the part of our brethren of the Canada Presbyterian Church, is scarcely so cordial and friendly, as it at one time appeared to us to be. And there also is, we fear, on the part of some of our own people, if not a feeling of hostility, certainly no apparent inclination for nearer intercourse or more close communion. We are very willing to believe that this feeling is confined to a few honest, but narrow-minded individuals on both sides. We hope that it is so. There are such people in every body, and they always make more noise than their importance warrants. It may be that we are altogether mistaken in the views and opinions which we are now conveying to our readers; but, nevertheless, we consider ourselves bound, as faithful chroniclers of what is passing around us, to notice what we believe to be the fact. For this state of things, various causes might be assigned, but into these we shall not at present enter. We hope that time will rub off the rough edges and sharp corners that now oppose our progress, in what we believe to be the right direction. And in the meantime, we are content to wait on patiently, and to do quietly, what we can in our own sphere, towards that which we have always looked upon as a great and desirable end, viz, the consolidating into one large and powerful Canadian Church, upon a solid and lasting foundation, all the different Presbyterian bodies now existing here under separate organizations.

In this number we insert the concluding article of a series on this subject written by