

general and so ardent a desire pervading their Congregations for union with their brethren of the other Synod, and they determined to give all facility and encouragement to the object of these Petitions. With this view they appointed a Committee of sixteen Ministers and five Elders, to meet with any Committee that might be appointed by the other Synod, with a view to frame a basis on which the two Churches might unite. Having implored the Divine blessing by engaging in prayer for direction and success in this great work, they instructed their Moderator to address a letter to the Moderator of the General Associate Synod, which would meet in the month of May, that he might communicate to his Synod what the Associate Synod had now done. The following is a copy of this letter:—

“EDINBURGH, April 30th, 1819.

“REV. SIR,—By appointment of the Associate Synod, I have the honour to inform you, that the Synod, at their meeting yesterday, having received upwards of eighty Petitions from different congregations, praying that measures may be taken for effecting a Union between the two great Bodies of the Secession Church, unanimously resolved to do every thing in their power for attaining that most desirable object; and, after prayer and thanksgiving to God, appointed a Committee of sixteen Ministers and five Elders, to converse with any Committee that may be appointed with the same view by the General Associate Synod, at their approaching meeting, in order to form the basis of a Union between the two Synods; authorizing the said Committee to appoint a Sub-Committee, and nominating the Rev. Dr. James Hall, of Rose-street, Edinburgh, their Convener, with whom the Convener of any Committee appointed for the same purpose by the General Associate Synod, may correspond.

“Allow me, Sir, as an individual, to express my heart-felt joy, that a measure so congenial with the spirit of the Gospel, and so much calculated to advance the cause of our dear Redeemer, has been brought forward, and my most cordial wishes that the result may be such as to meet the desires and expectations of so many thousands of God’s people.

“That the Holy Spirit may rest on you and your brethren, and on all the congregations under your care, is the earnest prayer of, Rev. Sir, your brother in Christ Jesus,

(Signed,)

“GEORGE YOUNG.

“Moderator.

“To the Rev. the Moderator of the General Associate Synod, to meet at Edinburgh, in May, 1819.”

We well remember to have heard this letter read in the General Associate Synod, of which we were then a member, and to have witnessed, and participated in, the feelings of delight which it produced. On the same occasion, petitions were laid on the table from congregations in all parts of the Church. Some of these being read, the Synod engaged in devotional exercises. Different Sederunts were occupied in deliberation on this important matter, after which they appointed a Committee of sixteen Ministers and five Elders, to meet with the one appointed by the Associate Synod; and the Moderator, being instructed by the Synod, addressed a letter to the Moderator of the Associate Synod, of which the following is a copy:—

“STIRLING, 20th May, 1819.

“REV. SIR,—I had the honour of receiving your most gratifying communication of the 30th April last, announcing the measures adopted by the Associate Synod, in consequence of numerous petitions from the congregations under their inspection, for effecting a Union of the two great bodies of the Secession Church; and having read your letter to the General Associate Synod at their meeting last week, I was directed to inform you, that it was heard with the deepest and most respectful interest, and ordered to be preserved in the records of the Court.

“The Synod having received upwards of ninety Petitions from different Congregations, all breathing the warmest desires for union, and having at great length.