APPENDIX.

LETTER TO THE SYNOD OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN SCOTLAND.

TORONTO, April 10, 1861.

To the Moderator and other Members of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland.

FATHERS AND BRETHREN,—The undersigned were appointed, at a pro re nata meeting of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, assembled here this day, to communicate with you on a matter to us of great importance, and to you, we feel confident, not uninteresting, as involving our prospective ecclesiastical relations. Considering the origin of our branch of the Presbyterian Church in this country, and looking back at the long years through which our efforts for the diffusion of Gospel truth in this land have been so patiently, consistently and liberally sustained by you, our parent Church, it cannot be regarded as otherwise than dutiful and courteous, that, when a step on our part is contemplated, having a view to a change in the position and relations which we have hitherto sustained, you should be informed of its nature and objects; and we would be glad to entertain the hope, that we have entered upon a course which will meet with your ready and cordial approbation.

It is not unknown to you that, for many years, negotiations have been conducted between the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, and the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada (commonly called the Free Church), having for their object the ecclesiastical incorporation of these two Bodies. Holding in common the same standards of doctrine and discipline, and separated only by some views on which members of the United Presbyterian Church were of opinion that differences of sentiment might, to some extent, exist, without any hinderance to Christian unity, it was, at a very early period of the organization of the two Churches in this country, regarded as highly desirable that such an understanding should be arrived at as might, without any compromise of principle, open up the way for an intelligent, cordial and scriptural union. It was felt by the great majority of the minis-