

which, however, has been postponed only, not altogether abandoned.

With reference to the meetings to confer as to the possibility of a union between our Church and the seceding bodies now known as the Canada Presbyterian Church, we have spoken in another article.

We have had during the year to chronicle the loss of an unusual number of office bearers of our church; among others the father of the Synod, the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, has fallen asleep, full of years, cut down like a shock of corn fully ripe: Others rising up and apparently with many days before them, have been suddenly summoned to their rest, men whom the Church, to human eye at least, could ill spare; yet amid much cause for sorrow there are abundant reasons for thankfulness and gratitude to God, and as a Church, we may take courage and set ourselves to go forward with renewed activity in the field of our labour. Queen's College has been assured of a sufficient income to enable the authorities to maintain it in full efficiency; Morrin College has been doing its fair quota of work; the congregations of the Church, have, as a whole, been advancing, but we still lack the services of ministers to supply the waste places, as there are far too many vacancies for which as yet pastors have not been found.

Imperfectly we have attempted to point out a few of the events that have taken place this year; what changes have been taking place in every family, who can tell? Some of them are visible; others are known but to God alone, and in the year about to open, there may be fulfilments of prophecies for which late events, momentous as they are, may be but the preparation.

That throughout the changes, joys and sorrows, trials and struggles of the coming time, the presence of God may be with our readers, is our earnest prayer, and to all we wish earnestly and sincerely "A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

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#### PRESBYTERIAN UNION IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

THE newspapers throughout the Dominion have chronicled the results of the late convention which met in St. Paul's Church, Montreal, on the subject of the Union of Presbyterian Churches of British North America. Every man who feels an interest in the consolidation and spread of Presbyterianism in these Colonies, will have rejoiced that

this first step towards Union has been at length taken. The generousness of temper with which the Joint Committees discussed the various questions, some of them not a little difficult, which necessarily came up for consideration, furnishes ground for both congratulation and hope. Entire unanimity was not to be looked for; the wonder is that the divergence was so comparatively slight;—that there were so many points on which the Delegates agreed. We do not claim that the Conference loosened every knot of difficulty in the course of their somewhat earnest and protracted discussions,—far from it. But that they showed the smallness of some difficulties, and paved the way for the removal of others that have been thought to interpose, will be readily conceded by all who watched their proceedings, and have made themselves familiar with the published results. It was at one time anticipated that "the Temporalities' Fund"—a Fund which may be deemed an "ENDOWMENT" of the Ministry of our Church, would form an obstacle to an acceptable scheme for the projected union; so far from this, the members representing the "Free" and "United Presbyterian" elements in the Convention, at once conceded that the maintenance of vested rights must of necessity be observed in all the legislation by which the Great Measure is to be carried out. This principle, it seems to us, lies at the root of the whole matter. Its recognition, from first to last, in subsequent negotiations, will be found essential to a successful issue. The "Organ" question, it was here and there feared, might interpose to prevent harmony in the Council of Delegates. So far from this, under the shadow of the noble organ of St. Paul's Church, the Conference agreed that no basis of union could be laid which did not provide for the preservation, to the several congregations, of the liberties, as to forms of worship, which they at present enjoy. On like principles, we doubt not, the College question, when the time shall come for its further consideration, will be discussed and dealt with. Those who may be appointed to prosecute the measure which has been so auspiciously inaugurated, will not insist, on the one hand, or allow on the other, that an Institution which has done good service for the Church and may be made capable of doing far more, which is associated in its history with much that is worthily cherished by one of the contracting Churches, for that it has furnished