

The Moderator said, as this was only the adjourned meeting of the General Assembly, it was not thought necessary—by some, indeed, it was thought improper—to have a public discourse delivered on the occasion. They had, therefore, to adopt a simpler and shorter preparatory service; but as they were met to deliberate on matters connected with the Redeemer's Kingdom, it was very important that their minds should be under the influence of divine truth, and receive the comforting and strengthening sense of the Redeemer's presence—the sense of that fellowship which was described in such remarkable words in the chapter he had read—(14th chapter Gospel of John)—so that all their deliberations might be so guided and controlled as to issue in that which was right and would be pleasing to the Master, and further His kingdom in the world. The duties to which they were called in that assembly were in some respects more difficult, and were attended by far greater dangers, than were connected with the duties which belonged to pastoral work. The business which the assembly was called to discuss consisted largely of details, and had often reference to matters that were about sacred things rather than partaking of the nature of them. Frequently subjects came before them in connection with which there was great diversity of opinion, occasioning warm debate. There was great danger sometimes that that unanimity of mind, spirituality of feeling and singleness of aim, which ought always to prevail in their souls as the ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ would be lost. The subjects that came before the Assembly were often of the gravest character, and on the present occasion they knew that a subject would come up for consideration which would have the most important bearing on several branches of the Church of Christ. It was important to mark the condition on which the promise of the Redeemer's presence was made. The Saviour said: "If a man love me he will keep my words and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him." These were words intended to expound the difficulty expressed by Judas, (not Iscariot) as to how the Saviour when he was absent in person

would still be able to indicate his presence to them while he did not show himself to the world. The expression might be understood as having two significations. The words of the Saviour might be regarded as precepts to be obeyed, as a deposit or trust to be preserved, or as a privilege or gift to be appropriated or enjoyed. They consisted largely of directions how men were to conduct themselves. He trusted that throughout the duties in which they were met there to engage—that in all their deliberations, they would have evidence that His word was dwelling in them, and that their Father was abiding with them, and maintaining harmony, spirituality of mind, hopefulness of feeling, confidence and strong faith that the Lord was directing all things to a glorious end.

Dr. Topp, as Convener of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly, read the following minutes of the various sittings of the Committee. Dr. Topp was also Sec. of the General Committee.

The following are the Minutes of the Joint Committee of the Presbyterian Churches of the Provinces of British North America on the subject of Union:—At Montreal and within St. Paul's Church there, on the 26th September, 1871, the Committees on the subject of Union, appointed by the Supreme Courts of the following churches, viz.: the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, the Canada Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Church of the Maritime Provinces in connection with the Church of Scotland, and the Presbyterian Churches of the Lower Provinces, met on the call of the respective Conveners of these Committees, as a Joint Committee for the promotion of the Union.

The Rev. Dr. Cook, Chairman of the Joint Committee, which met in Montreal at this time last year, having opened the meeting with prayer, intimated that it now devolved upon the Committee to appoint a Chairman and a Secretary. It was then moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed to, that Dr. Cook be appointed Chairman, and that Dr. Topp be appointed Secretary.

At the same place and on the 27th Sept., the Committee met.