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Miscellaneous Articles.

PROPOSED UNION OF PRESBYTERIAN AND U. P. CHURCHES.

To the Editor of the U. P. Magazine,

SIR,—It may be thought unbecoming in one, like myself, so recently come to the country, to take part even to the slightest extent, in the discussion of the proposed Union between two of the Presbyterian bodies in the Province. Reasonably perhaps it might be judged that my position ought to be that of the silent, though not uninterested on-looker. My words cannot come with authority; my opinions are unquestionably of little importance, and can carry with them little if any influence. On the other hand, however, the very fact of being but “new” to the country, its sectional differences, and ecclesiastical keennesses, may lead a very insignificant brother to state what might not occur to one indefinitely his superior, but whom long residence in the country had rendered familiar with its ways, and thus perhaps unconscious of certain peculiarities which “strike a stranger” at once with astonishment and regret.

I do not know, sir, what may be the general feeling among the ministers of our church in reference to the proposed Union. I should trust heartily favourable, and I should hope that the same may be said of the ministers in the sister church, with which we propose to unite. I am quite sure that the feeling among the people in both churches is strongly in its favour. At the same time I should hope that the discussion in present circumstances, of every point which afterwards might come up as a root of bitterness to disturb the peace of the United body, will not be regarded as intimating a feeling of hostility to union, but rather a desire to have that union real and hearty, whenever in the providence of God it may come. For myself, I increasingly see the desirableness of such a Union, for the sake at once of Christianity, and Presbyterianism in the Province; yet I am thereby, only the more led to trouble you with some difficulties and questions, which may have perplexed others of the brethren, and which, if possible, should be obviated and answered as speedily and satisfactorily as possible.

Will you permit me then to say, as a comparative stranger and on-looker in this matter, that nothing has struck me as more singular, and I will say more offensive, than the tone of arrogant superiority assumed by a very large number of our friends in the Free Church. To be sure it may be urged that in all considerable bodies there are always “weak brethren,” who have a peculiar faculty for arrogance in the absence of anything else. This to a certain extent is the case; but it does not appear fully to explain the phenomenon. The idea