

The following letter was sent in reply:—

"BOND STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
"TORONTO, August 9th, 1878.

"*The Rev. Henry Wilkes, D.D., L.L.D.* :

"DEAR SIR,—Your letter of 21st June came duly to hand and was read to the church at its last church meeting on July 31st. The church instructed its officers to address a letter to you as convener of the committee appointed by the Union at London in June last, to the following effect.—First of all the church begs to express its full appreciation of the kindness that led to the appointment of that committee, at the same time the church begs to assure the committee that it was in no spirit of childish irritation that it resolved to withdraw from the Union. It was not a pleasant task to sever associations that had been cherished for more than a quarter of a century. But the church was compelled by self respect and urged by the reasons already assigned to break away. The church did not desire to compromise the Union nor any of its members, nor did it desire to be the occasion of strife, but it did desire for itself, that it might be permitted to perform undisturbed the work the Master assigned it. The church quite clearly understands that severance from the Union is not severance from the denomination.

"The Year Book for 1873-4 says, p. 14, that 'It is not necessary to the good and regular standing of a minister or church to be connected with the Union.' This church came to its decision deliberately and prayerfully, and if it had ever entertained a doubt of the wisdom of its course, the July issue of the denominational organ would have settled that doubt.

"While the Church maintains as warmly its attachment to the denomination, and desires to serve to its uttermost the cause of Congregationalism in Canada, it is fully and unanimously of the opinion that withdrawal from the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec is its only honourable course.

"(Signed) Thomas W. Handford, pastor; James Fraser, James Thomson, Edward Beckett, James Farquhar, Francis Robinson, deacons."

"5. While desiring fellowship with all Evangelical churches of its own and other denominations, this church resolves that under no consideration will it revive the discussion of those unhappy mistakes into which it fell, and *for which it expresses its sorrow and regret*. Such a course will, it is believed, soonest allay differences that necessarily exist with respect thereto.