

(Zech. iv. 10). The little springs bubbling unseen by the great world, and rising to the surface here and there in the back woods, have become brook and the brooks have become rivers. After several unions and only one separation the Presbyterianism of the Dominion, with a chequered history of little over three-quarters of a century, consists to-day, as we enter (1875) the last quarter of that century, of only *two* branches, (kept apart for 30 years by the great question that tore asunder the mother church in Scotland); for the subdivision of these two churches into four churches, which is the number negotiating for union, is really a *geographical*, not an *ecclesiastical* subdivision; the result of distance, and not of logical or theological controversy. The following is the Basis on which these churches ecclesiastically divided into two and geographically subdivided into other two, propose to become the Presbyterian Church in Canada, discarding designations and controversies that lie beyond that simple, ample name.

PREAMBLE TO BASIS.

The Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, the Canada Presbyterian Church, the Church of the Maritime Provinces in connection with the Church of Scotland, and the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, holding the same doctrine, government, and discipline, believing that it would be for the glory of God, and the advancement of the cause of Christ, that they should unite and thus form one Presbyterian Church in the Dominion, independent of all other Churches in its jurisdiction, and under authority to Christ alone, the head of His Church, and head over all things to the Church, agree to unite on the following Basis, to be subscribed by the Moderators of the respective Churches in their name and on their behalf.

BASIS.

1. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being the Word of God, are the only infallible rule of faith and manners.
2. The Westminster Confession of Faith shall form the subordinate standard of this Church; the Larger and Shorter Catechisms shall be adopted by the Church, and appointed to be used for the instruction of the people; it being distinctly understood that nothing contained in the aforesaid Confession or Catechisms, regarding the power and duty of the Civil Magistrate, shall be held to sanction any principles or views inconsistent with full liberty of conscience in matters of religion.
3. The government and worship of this Church shall be in accordance with the recognized principles and practice of Presbyterian Churches, as laid down generally in the "Form of Presbyterian Church Government," and in "The Directory for the Public Worship of God."

STATISTICS.

The following table shows the numerical strength of these four Presbyterian churches in the Canadas, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by the census of three decennial periods:—

PRESBYTERIANS.	1852.	1861.	1871.
The Canadas (Ont. & Que.)	237,683	346,991	401,607
Nova Scotia.....		88,755	103,524
New Brunswick.....		36,731	38,700
Total.		472,477	543,831