

# THE CANADIAN

## United Presbyterian Magazine.

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### Miscellaneous Articles.

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#### UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY.

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BY THE REV. DR. FERRIER, CALEDONIA.

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The Scheme for Union between the Secession and Relief Churches, to which we referred in our last communication, was submitted to the two Synods, and each gave deliverance thereon, expressive, in general, of approbation of its tenor. But the agitation in the United Secession Synod, in consequence of the Morisonian controversy, which has been noticed, and the steps leading to, and ending in, the Disruption in the Established Church, to which we have also referred, seemed at this time to engross the entire attention of the religious public, so that neither our denomination, nor the Relief, had composure to do much towards the Union contemplated. When the stir occasioned by these movements was over, the time for consummating the Union seemed to have arrived; and now, in March, 1844, a resolution was brought forward in the Dunfermline Presbytery, by Dr. Johnston of Limekilns, and unanimously carried,—“That this Presbytery do now agree to petition the Synod, at its meeting in May, to take into consideration the subject of Union between the Secession and Relief Churches, with the view of bringing the negotiations which have been so long pending between the two bodies in this matter to a favourable termination.” But it happened at this very time, that the Atonement controversy assumed a new aspect in consequence of the publication formerly noticed by Dr. Marshall of Kirkintilloch, and this occasioned further delay. It was not till May, 1846, that the report of the Joint Committee was taken up by the United Secession Synod, and the following deliverance given,—“Appoint a Committee to wait upon the Relief Synod to request that Synod to appoint a Committee of their number with equal powers,—that these Committees re-consider the Scheme of Union which