

polity, as well as of evangelical principle. During this agitation, which was conducted with eagerness on the part the Establishment, ministers and people belonging to the Relief and Secession Churches, in all parts of the country, became better acquainted with each other. Their co-operation, in common defence, produced confidence among them, and created many friendships, and thus more and more ripened them for coalescence. They were happily successful in resisting the claims of their opponents, and defeating their favourite object of obtaining additional endowments.

Even amidst this stir about endowments, there were petitions from both Presbyteries and Congregations, presented to the United Associate Synod, in September, 1835, greatly in favour of Union. In consequence, the following minute was passed:—"After some deliberation, the Synod agreed to express satisfaction in the friendly communication from the Synod of Relief, and to renew their expression of esteem and affection for the Relief Church; and as few reports from Presbyteries and Sessions on the subject of Union with that Church have been received, probably because there was no specific injunction to that effect, Presbyteries and Sessions are enjoined to take the subject into their deliberate and prayerful consideration, and to report to the Synod at next meeting: and the clerk is directed to return a respectful answer to the friendly communication from the Relief Synod, which has this day been read and cordially received."

When the United Secession Synod met in the month of April, 1836, reports and petitions were presented from nine Congregations, from fifty-two Sessions, and from fifteen Presbyteries, respecting the proposed Union, showing that there prevailed a considerable diversity of opinion respecting it. Some sought immediate Union,—others wished delay; but the Synod being much pressed with business, could not enter fully into the subject. They, however, agreed to the following motion:—"That the Synod shall appoint a Committee of Ministers and Elders to consider the reports and petitions, which have been, or shall be transmitted on the subject of Union with the Relief Church, and also to obtain authentic information concerning the principles and administration of that Church; and further, that a deputation shall be appointed to communicate the resolution to the Relief Synod, and to convey to them the sentiments of fraternal Christian affection, which this Church bears to the Relief Church, and our ardent desire for their spiritual prosperity."

In May following, when the Synod of Relief met, the same subject being brought before them, the following resolutions were moved and carried:—

1. "That a Union with the United Associate Church on Scriptural grounds, and without merging the principle of 'Free Communion of Saints,' which has so long been a distinctive tenet of the Relief Synod, is greatly to be desired, and ought to be sought after, with prudence, deliberation, and perseverance."

2. "That as some of the Sessions and, it is believed, Congregations in the Synod, are not prepared for the contemplated Union, it is necessary that proper measures should be employed to remove objections to the proposal; and for this purpose, it is especially advisable that Christian and Ministerial intercourse, by interchange of pulpit services, and otherwise,