

conveying an extract from the minutes of the said Presbytery requesting this Presbytery to unite with them in requesting the Moderator of Synod to call a *pro re nata* meeting of Synod to meet in Pictou on the 13th October next, in conference with the Free Church Synod, on the subject of union. The Presbytery agreed to comply with this request.

At the last meeting of the Presbytery of Truro, Mr Samuel Fulton Johnston, having completed his trials to the satisfaction of the Presbytery, was licensed to preach the everlasting gospel. Mr Johnston will be engaged in the Home Mission field till spring.

UNION OF THE FREE CHURCH AND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.—On Wednesday last, a Conference was held, in the Free Church, in this city, between the Free Church Presbytery and the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia.—All the ministers, and a considerable number of the elders, of both Presbyteries, were present. The design of this Conference was, to forward the completion of the union, which has been so long discussed, and which is so desirable, between the Free Church and the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia. The meeting was of a most friendly character. The members of both Presbyteries cordially entered into the object of the Conference. Explanations were made, which happily tended to remove misunderstandings, and thus pave the way for the speedy completion of the contemplated object. It seemed to be the general impression that we had deliberated long enough, and that the time for action was come. It was felt that the common cause would be greatly advantaged by an immediate union; that, were this effected, many stations would be able, without delay, to secure the stated dispensation of the ordinances of religion, which, in their present divided state, they are unable to do; that the purity of the church would be promoted, as its hands would be strengthened in the exercise of discipline; that obstacles, which now might be easily surmounted, would, by delay, be increased. In a word, a speedy union would be attended by the most happy results to both parties.

The points of difference between the two bodies were discussed in the most

unreserved, friendly, and candid manner. The basis of union agreed upon between the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, seemed to be approved of by members of both Presbyteries. The matter in regard to the support of religion by the state was not overlooked. While there did not seem to be a perfect agreement among themselves, between the members of either body—while there were slight differences of opinion—and while there was no probability that this would become a practical question, it was thought proper to make it a matter of forbearance. Thus, one obstacle after another vanished, when it came to be grappled with. The Conference, which was most agreeable throughout, terminated in the adoption of the following resolution moved by the Rev J. L. McLeod, seconded by Rev Alexander Sutherland, and unanimously Resolved, That this Conference approves of the basis of union, prepared by the Committee of the Free Church and the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, in Truro, in 1844; that they are willing and anxious to unite on said basis; that they agree to request the moderators of their respective Synods to call a *pro re nata* meeting for Synodical Conference, on the subject of union, to be held in Pictou, on the 13th October first ensuing, at 11 o'clock a. m.; and that the Free Church Presbytery of Pictou, and the Presbytery of Pictou in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, together with the Committees for conference upon union, be solicited to co-operate with us, in making the above request.

It is scarcely necessary to say, that we hail with no ordinary satisfaction the very gratifying results of this Conference. It is plain that, if the other Presbyteries of the Free Church, and of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, be as anxious for union as the Presbyteries of P. E. Island, the event can no longer be either distant or doubtful. Nay we would venture to go farther. We hope, and most sincerely wish to see a union of all the Presbyterian bodies in these provinces. It is time, not only that Presbyterians, but all Protestant bodies should draw closer together. They have a common enemy to encounter. Romanism is their uncompromising foe. She wages against them an unceasing war. Her efforts for their overthrow never for a moment cease. If they should not be ap-