

we heard from different sections of the land at the last meeting of Synod; and the refreshing showers have continued to descend ever since.

Surely in view of these facts and others which we might enumerate it well becomes us as a church to thank God and take courage.

UNION COMMITTEES.

The official Minutes of the Union Committees which met recently at Montreal have not yet been published, but the results of the Conference are known through Newspaper reports. The proposed Basis has been amended and reads as follows:—

I.—That the scriptures of the old and new testaments, being the word of God, are the only infallible rule of faith and manners.

II.—That the Westminster confession of faith shall form the subordinate standard of this church; that 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.

III.—That 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."

IV.—That this Church, while cherishing Christian affection towards the whole church of God, and desiring to hold fraternal intercourse with it in its several branches as opportunity offers, shall at the same time regard itself as being in such ecclesiastical relations to churches holding the same doctrine, government and discipline with itself, that ministers and probationers from those Churches shall be received into this Church, subject to such regulations as shall from time to time be adopted.

Much time was devoted to the discussion of the relation in which Queen's College at Kingston should stand to the United Church. The conclusion arrived at was to the effect that the Theological faculty should be removed to Montreal, and that a relation of peculiar intimacy should exist between the College at Kingston and the United

Church.—The liberal offer made by the Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland for disposing of the Temporalities Fund was highly appreciated.

THE CASE OF HASSAN.

Hassan is a Syrian convert to Protestantism from Mohammedanism. When his conversion was ascertained, the Turkish authorities imprisoned and beat him again and again, and his life was in great danger. The Missionaries (American Presbyterians) applied to the British Consul at Beyrut who in turn applied to the British Ambassador at Constantinople. Under the Ambassador's pressure Hassan was released from prison but was ordered to leave the country in twenty days. He was ready to go, but the authorities would not let him go without a passport and would not give him a passport. Thus they kept him and his friends in an agony of suspense. The poor fellow had a wife and five children and they too were in danger from the fanatical mob. In July he and his children were publicly baptized. He is the first genuine Moslem in Syria who has publicly professed christianity. The Turkish officials continued to refuse him protection at home and a passport to go abroad. At last the British Consul took the matter in hand and insisted on the passport being furnished. Hassan then went to Egypt where he will be cared for by the Missionaries and other friends. The Turkish Government has now at last yielded the point of practical toleration under strong British pressure. The next Mohammedan convert will find the pathway easier in consequence of the sufferings endured by Hassan.

Mr. Jessup, an American Presbyterian Missionary, thus explains the value of British influence in the East:

The influence of the British Government is felt throughout this empire. Other Protestant governments have thus far taken no active official stand in behalf of religious toleration here. Germany and the United States sometimes act unofficially, but have given no instructions to their diplomatic representatives here to interfere in cases of persecution of subjects of the Porte. The British Consul telegraphed to Constantinople, and the British Ambassador obtained