

and rules of procedure of the united body should be determined, the reference of the adjustment of the temporalities to the Church of Scotland in Ontario and Quebec, and the degree of liberty to be allowed in modes of worship. The subject of collegiate education was also taken up in the evening of the first day. Considering the variety and extent of the subjects thus disposed of, it is questionable if any similar instance could be produced of such harmony of action and despatch in a settlement between parties hitherto separate and often opposed.

So soon, however, as the subject of collegiate education was taken up, great diversity of opinion then manifested itself, chiefly on account of the competing interests of different existing institutions of learning. Some members, principally of your committee, argued in favor of one, or, at most, two theological schools for the future church, upon the ground of increased influence in the country, and upon the ground of economy. As this would involve the suppression of some of the present halls, it was found impossible to agree upon such a solution. After three days of friendly debate, it was finally agreed to recommend the maintenance of Queen's College as embracing faculties in arts and theology, and also the halls already in existence, namely, those in Toronto, Montreal, Quebec and Halifax.

On the last day of meeting, the basis was arranged in accordance with minutes of previous meetings. It is now before you for consideration and amendment, if required. It is desirable that, unless members feel any particular correction imperative, it should remain unaltered. Your committee believe that, as it now stands, it shows a considerable advance in favor of right views on the subject of denominational symbols; and we are happy to inform you, that, after a long and interesting interview with the Union Committee of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, they are still of the unanimous opinion that no change should be made upon the basis by the addition of the Larger Catechism, or by altering the modification into a clause not requiring assent to what may be thought persecuting or intolerant principles, as has since been proposed in the General Assembly.

The basis states distinctly that the Confession is subordinate to the word of God. It would be as well, perhaps, if the word "infallible" were omitted, as that term has been applied to a person, and is not applicable to a document. The Shorter Catechism is not made a standard, but enjoined as an authoritative form for the instruction of youth, and this, you are aware, is in harmony with the constitution of the Church of Scotland, whose only legal standard is the Westminster Confession, though her practice has always given a high place to the catechisms and directory. The truth is, that the Revolution settlement left our church without either a directory of public worship or a catechism.

Regularly engrossed and attested minutes of our proceedings have been sent down, and are now upon your table.

The action taken lately by the Presbyterian bodies in Ontario and Quebec requires to be considered in our proceedings. The General Assembly and the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland met contemporaneously in the month of May, the one in Quebec and the other in Toronto. Two principal changes upon the basis have been proposed by the Assembly:—*first*, the addition of the larger catechism, and the elevation of both catechisms to the full status of standards;—*secondly*, the modification already alluded to. The whole subject has been recommitted.

In consequence of communications which have passed between both bodies, our sister Synod in Canada has consented to add the larger catechism to the basis. They have also reappointed their Committee, with instructions to arrange details and report, and also have empowered the Moderator to call a special meeting of Synod, if necessary, upon the requisition of the Committee. A joint meeting of all the Committees on union has also been proposed, to be held in Montreal in October.

The subject of collegiate education seems to have, as before, awakened the greatest amount of interest in both courts. The Church of Scotland in Canada