

CORRESPONDENCE ON UNION.

Whatever misgivings the friends of Presbyterian Union may have entertained previous to the meeting of Synod, there is but little ground for any misgivings now. The harmony, the delightful cordiality which characterized every discussion and resolution, not only served to disappoint the hopes of enemies but to astonish sincere but timorous friends. This happy state of things will greatly strengthen the hands of those who are desirous of bringing the Established Church of Scotland as well as other Presbyterian bodies into union with the "Presbyterian Church of the Lower Colonies." With a view of promoting this object we lay the following correspondence in full before the Church:

LETTER FROM THE CONVENER OF THE COMMITTEE ON UNION.

Windsor, 1st S., June 6, 1861.

REVD. SIR,—The unity of the Body of Christ is a doctrine clearly and unequivocally taught in the word of God, and professedly and assuredly believed by all his followers. But the unhappy differences which have existed among them afford sufficient evidence that their practice is not in exact accordance with the prayer of Christ, "that they all may be one." Of late years there has been a disposition manifested, especially among the different branches of the Presbyterian family to draw more closely together than formerly, and where their conscientious differences will admit of it to unite as one Body.

Of this the Union which has been effected between the Secession and Relief Bodies in Scotland, the Union of the branches of the Established Church of Scotland, and the Free Church, and the United Presbyterian Church, in Australia, the Union of the Free, and United Presbyterian Churches in Canada, reported as about to be consummated this day, and lastly the Union of the Free and Presbyterian Churches of Nova Scotia, under the name of "the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America," is sufficient evidence. This name was adopted not only as a suitable designation for the present but with the hope of ultimately uniting under it as one Body, all the different branches of the Presbyterian family, in the Lower Provinces. The undersigned are a committee appointed by the Synod of said United Body to open a correspondence with the different Presbyterian Bodies in the Lower Provinces of British North America on this subject. We need not with you enter into any discussion, as to the duty and advantages of such a Union, where it can without any sacrifice of principle be effected. On this matter we feel assured that you are already fully convinced. But we send you a copy of the Minutes of the United Body which contains the basis of the Union, and respectfully request you to submit it to your Reverend Court at their next annual meeting, in the hope that they will give the subject their most favourable consideration.

It is a basis which has been favourably spoken of by prominent persons of different Presbyterian Bodies in Scotland; and we should feel happy if under it, the different branches of the Presbyterian family in the Lower Provinces, could unite as one Body. Our Synod meets in Halifax this year on the 4th Wednesday of June, at 11 o'clock, and any communication from you on this subject will be cordially received. And that the Great Head of the Church may direct your deliberations and lead you to such a decision as may be most for His own glory, is the prayer of the undersigned.

J. L. MURDOCH, *Con.*