

# THE CANADIAN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE.

VOL. II.

TORONTO, APRIL 1, 1855.

No. 4.

## Miscellaneous Articles.

### UNION BETWEEN THE FREE AND UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE REV. ROBERT URE'S LETTER.\*

*To the Editor of the Canadian United Presbyterian Magazine.*

SIR,—Seldom have any of our Free Church brethren come forward with a lucid statement of their peculiar views. They have generally shut themselves up in vague and ambiguous language, from which it was next to impossible to understand what they would be at. Whether this might be from design, or from the rather gloomy nature of their peculiar sentiments, we shall not determine. But certain it is that they have dealt in obscure and doubtful phraseology which, like heathen oracles, might be interpreted in whatever way might serve their purpose. And in general, too, when they have come forward at all, either to explain or defend their cause, it has been done in a style of haughtiness and virulence which did not deserve reply. It is not so, however, with the letter of the Rev. Robert Ure, which you have very seasonably transcribed into your pages, and which we thank you for giving us. It is written in a clear, connected and argumentative strain; and, on the whole, with becoming dignity, as well as christian candour and courteousness. We are bound to make some reply, in doing which, whilst we shall endeavour to imitate his example in being dispassionate, serious, and conciliatory, we shall, at the same time study to be faithful in endeavouring to do justice both to the views he presents, and to our own. We venture to state, at the outset, that if the same "meekness of wisdom" characterize his brethren, we are even hopeful that some common ground may yet be reached by his Church and ours which may at length lead to an honourable union.

Mr. Ure complains of an accusation against his Church, in your Magazine, —of a violation of christian charity. But as he does not state on what that

\* The Letter originally appeared in the *Eccelesiastical and Missionary Record for the Presbyterian Church of Canada*, and was transferred to our number for January..