

exactly follow the national line. Some Americans remained through preference for attachment to the old Church; and some Scotchmen, more devoted to the voluntary system than to patriotic sentiment, went forth with the seceders. The new Society, although distinctively American, was not meant to be so in a narrow and exclusive sense. No rule as to nationality of members or ministers was ever made; and it is in this connection an interesting fact, that the longest pastorate in the history of the church was that of a native Scotchman. In the preamble to the regulations, early adopted by the Society, it is stated that, "although a great portion of its members date their birth in the United States, yet it is by no means intended to exclude any on account of origin; but, on the contrary, all who approve of this our compact, are invited to unite and congregate with us." It is, indeed, probable that national feeling was at first quite strong. The memory of that war between Great Britain and the United States which is still happily called the last, in which Canadians were so deeply interested and engaged, was then fresh, and more recent scenes had tended to intensify the feud. Yet, even then, the feeling was not wholly bitter, and in the half century since elapsed, it has almost completely disappeared. At times, passing events have stirred the fading flame, as during the late civil war; but these seasons have been few and the prevailing state has been that of constant and of growing peace.

When occasion has required, this Society has always proved true to its origin and name. In their country's darkest hour, its members have not shunned to defend her honor and to plead her cause; and while loyal to the institutions under which they live, they have ever joined the interests of their native country with those of their adopted land in their love and prayers. At present, while we keep our first name and maintain the tie that binds us to the Church of the United States, we include among our members persons of almost every nationality, and we know no rivalry or difference between them.

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