

THE CONGREGATIONAL  
UNION OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

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This body was organized in October, 1853, by the amalgamation of the previously existing Unions of Upper Canada and Lower Canada, the former of which was organized in 1837 and the latter in 1839. The Chairman of the Western Canada Union, at the time this was effected, was the Rev. K. M. Fenwick, of Kingston; the Chairman of the Eastern Canada Union was the Rev. A. J. Parker, the venerable ex-pastor of the church in Danville, Que.

With a view to this result the Eastern Canada Union made overtures for amalgamation with that of the west, at its annual meeting in Toronto, in June, 1853, when a committee was appointed to confer with a similar committee from the Eastern Union, and prepare a basis upon which they might unite. This joint committee met in Kingston, Oct. 19th, the same year, and resolved that inasmuch as it had been agreed in June, "that the amalgamation of the said Unions should be consummated on the 1st October, 1853, if the Constitution met the concurrence of the Eastern brethren, and the measures were not objected to by more than one-fourth of the members of the Western Union;" and inasmuch as the proposed Constitution had been accepted by the Union of Canada East (which met July 4th, 5th and 6th) and only four letters had been received from Western brethren decidedly opposing the measure, "the amalgamation be held as assented to, and is hereby declared to be consummated." This result was hailed with very great satisfaction by the denomination generally.

The amalgamation of the two Unions involved also the uniting of the two Missionary Societies which were respectively controlled by them. From the year 1837, in which the late Rev. J. Roaf came to Canada, to assume the charge of the Congregational Church in Toronto, till the year 1857, the Colonial Society carried on its work in that part of Upper Canada lying west of Kingston, through the agency of that gifted and much respected minister. A similar agency had been established for Lower Canada and the Eastern portion of Upper Canada in 1836, with the Rev. Henry (now Dr.) Wilkes at its head. The churches, however, both East and West, desiring to assist in this work, organized, first, the Congregational Missionary Society of Canada West, in 1840, and afterwards, in 1846, a Society with similar objects in view for Canada East. Thus there were three distinct Societies at work in the country at the same time. In the year 1857 Mr. Roaf resigned his agency, and a Committee, appointed by the Congregational Union of Canada West, acted in his stead. No such change appearing necessary in