

many of the brethren whom I have now the privilege and the pleasure to address. I shall rely upon the kind indulgence of you all, and especially upon the friendly assistance of those who have much more experience in the management of ecclesiastical affairs than I have had.

The Moderator announced that it had been agreed at the Conference of the Synod, the evening before, that the Rev. Wm. Hamilton of Mortlake should be received into the Synod immediately on the consummation of the union, and that Mr. Hamilton would now take his seat accordingly.

BASIS OF UNION AND FORMULA.

The Moderator then requested the ministers and elders to stand up while he read the basis and formula, and thus signify their acceptance of and adherence to the same. He read as follows:

We, the undersigned ministers and elders of "The Synod of Victoria," "The Free Church Synod of Victoria," "The United Presbyterian Synod of Victoria," and "The United Presbyterian Synod of Australia," having resolved, after long and prayerful deliberation, to unite together in one Synod and in one Church, do now, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and with solemn prayer for His guidance and blessing, unite in one Synod, to be called "The Presbyterian Church of Victoria," and resolve and determine that the following be the fundamental principles and articles of the union, and be subscribed by each of the members of the new Synod.

1st. That the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, the Form of the Presbyterian Church Government, the Directory for Public Worship, and the Second Book of Discipline, be the standards and formularies of this Church.

2d. That inasmuch as there is a difference of opinion in regard to the doctrines contained in these standards, relative to the power and duty of the civil magistrate in matters of religion, the office-bearers of this Church, in subscribing these standards and formularies, are not to be held as countenancing persecuting or intolerant principles, or as professing any views in reference to the power and duty of the civil magistrate inconsistent with the liberty of the human conscience, or the right of private judgment.

3d. That this Synod asserts for itself a separate and independent character and position as a Church, possesses supreme jurisdiction over its subordinate judicatories, congregations, and people; and will receive all ministers and preachers from other Presbyterian Churches applying for admission on an equal footing, who shall thereupon become subject to its authority alone.

Formula.—I do hereby declare that I do sincerely accept the standards and formularies enumerated in the foregoing articles, as the confession of my faith, with the declarations and provisions contained in the second article; and I promise that, through the grace of God, I shall firmly and constantly adhere to the same; that I shall follow no divisive councils, but in my station, and to the utmost of my power, shall assert, maintain, and defend the doctrines, worship, discipline, and government of this Church, as therein defined, renouncing all doctrines, tenets, and opinions whatsoever contrary to or inconsistent with the same.

COMMUNION.

The Rev. Dr. Cairn had been appointed to preside at the observance of the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, by the ministers and elders of the new Synod. Before proceeding with the service he invited any other elders of the Presbyterian Church who might be present to take their places at the communion table. After devotional services the communion was dispensed according to the mode prevalent in Presbyterian Churches generally. Messrs. David Ogilvy and James Bennie of Melbourne, Donald Kennedy of Glenroy, and William Robertson of Wooling, elders and representatives of the four Synods, superintended the distribution of the elements. The service was replete with the deepest solemnity and most hallowed joy. The fellowship of kindred minds—brethren united by a new and sacred bond—was sweet and refreshing. Surely the King of the feast was there, and every heart seemed to realise His blessed presence. It was truly a *feast of love*. It will be a "sunny spot" in the spiritual history of all. Memory will often recall it with refreshing power. The eye of many an onlooker glistened with tears of mingled gratitude and joy as it gazed upon the sacred scene.— Altogether the occasion was most memorable.