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"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING."—Ps. 137: 5

### THE UNION.

There is no subject over which the people and ministers of the Church feel a deeper interest at the present moment than that of Union with the brethren of the other denominations in which the Church is at present negotiating. It is right and proper that anxiety should be felt, for it will be an act for weal or woe not only to the Church, but also to the Dominion in which we live. Once done it cannot be undone. Once accomplished, the only remedy for the mistake, if mistake it proves, is schism—a thing in itself an evil which centuries cannot remedy. Hence the importance of wise and judicious action now on the part of the people of the Church; for after all the decision must rest largely in the hands of the people. Synods and Presbyteries are all well in their way, but neither one nor the other desires to go, nor will go, in the face of the public opinion of the Church; and therefore whatever the voice of the people demands, we have no hesitation in promising. If Union is the word of any considerable majority, then Union will be accomplished; but if not, then things will remain as they are.

All this is fully recognised. If the question were asked, we believe that these principles and facts would be mentioned from end to end of the Church, by rich and poor, learned and ignorant alike. It is the birth right of the Scotch Church to recognize the rights of her

people in her Church Courts and deliberations; and her colonial daughters are not going to forget this and the other heritages which they enjoy from her. Therefore the people need not fear want of due recognition in the matter; but the people must not forget their responsibility. They must remember that whatever they demand on the present, as on all occasions, will be theirs. But theirs also will be the responsibility. It must receive the attention by all which so grave a measure demands. It will be a marriage—let it be a marriage of love and mutual interest, and let us not figure thereafter in the ecclesiastical divorce courts of schism and dissent.

But though our people know full well the principles and constitution of the Church, that they are part of the Church Courts, and that the Church neither can nor will do what is distasteful to them; yet we fear that in many instances the magnitude of the present movement is not recognized as fully as it ought to be. It is more than a mere local union—it is a union throughout British North America, and in all decisions of Church Courts and congregations, this should be kept in view. The movement is progressing, whether favourably or otherwise we are not yet in a position to say. So far, however, as we are able to ascertain, the following are the results:

I. THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.—It has