

allusion has been made would be obviated, and payments would be regularly and satisfactorily made in future. The second recommendation would require to be attended to, not only this year, but in succeeding years, in order that the same inconvenience may not again occur.

I have no doubt that you will coincide with the Board of Management in their endeavours to rectify that which has been felt to be a source of trouble for some years past. Very little additional exertion and liberality on the part of each congregation would be required for this purpose. And it would be matter of regret, if in such a case, anything of the nature complained of should be permitted to impair the satisfactory and efficient working of an Institution, in which we all feel so deeply interested, and which is so essential to the welfare and prosperity of our Church.

I am,

My Dear Sir,

Yours, very sincerely,

ALEXANDER TOPP, Convener *pro tem*.

To be communicated to the office-bearers and congregation.

PROGRESS OF PRESBYTERIAN UNION IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The cause of Presbyterian Union in the Lower Provinces is still advancing. The proposed Basis of Union is received with general favour by the Presbyteries and Sessions. We subjoin an account of the Presbytery at Halifax as given in the *Presbyterian Witness*.

The subject of Union with the P. C. of Nova Scotia was discussed at some length. Professor Lyall felt that now there was no hindrance whatever, so far as principle was concerned. He alluded to an injurious prejudice which existed in some people's minds with regard to the name proposed for the body; it was a prejudice of the same class with that which clung to the "stone and lime" in the days of moderatism. It should be discouraged and removed by every legitimate means. He trusted this Presbytery would come to such a deliverance as this important subject demanded, and such as would be valuable for removing this prejudice. He could see no reason why the Union should not be consummated in the course of next year.

Rev. Mr. Stuart was much gratified at the present prospect of Union. His congregation was at one with him on this subject. Many of them would be much disappointed if it should not take place next year. Rev. Mr. Steele was sincerely anxious for the speedy consummation of the Union. The Presbyterians of his County were to a great extent in happy ignorance of the sad divisions of the Presbyterian family, but such of them as had their attention turned to the subject were earnest and intelligent advocates of Union. Mr. Farquharson said with regard to Dartmouth that all as far as he knew looked forward with anxiety for Union next summer. Professor King stated that

he saw his way very clearly now to a satisfactory Union. He was as earnest in the matter as any one. There was no difficulty now as regarded principle. The other body he believed was honestly attached to the same principles with us. There is no difference of opinion as regards the basis of Union. There must necessarily be some delay for the arrangement of matters of property. He would deprecate the hurrying of the Union so as to leave business matters in any confusion, or so as to leave behind a single congregation. He would not by any means be understood as starting any objection to the Union, while he might see causes that may lead to the disappointment of those who hope for its consummation next summer.

The Moderator believed that the general desire was that the Union should be consummated as soon as possible. The matter of principle being settled, he did not anticipate much difficulty in reference to the property of each body. In this matter much depended on the diligence of the Committee on Union. As to objections and prejudices, they were confined to the East and were mainly owing to political partisanship. The Conservatives of the West are among its most ardent and intelligent advocates, just because they are wise enough to see that it has nothing to do with politics.

The Presbytery came to a unanimous decision, cordially approving of the Basis of Union and proposed name, &c., and recommended to the various Kirk-sessions, and congregations within their bounds to consider the subject before the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery.

OPENING OF FREE CHURCH COLLEGE—HALIFAX.

The Session of the Free Church College, Halifax, was opened on Wednesday, 2nd November. We copy from the *Presbyterian Witness* the following account of the opening of the Session.

The Introductory Lecture by Professor King, was delivered last Wednesday evening—having been postponed a day on account of the prayer meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association. The subject of lecture was Scottish Church History as illustrating the grand truth of Christ's sole sovereignty over the Church—the Church's independence of all civil power. He showed how the Continental Churches succumbed to the civil power from an undue love of peace. The desire for conciliation led them to retain much that was popish in some cases, and much that was christian in other cases. In England the Reformers yielded the Crown rights of Christ almost without a struggle. The capricious tyrant Henry the Eighth assumed all the power over the Church that was previously claimed by the Pope, and the same powers are still claimed and exercised by the English Crown. The thirty-seventh article attempts to throw a veil over the enormity of the usurpation, but the attempt is futile. The Reformers on the continent as well as in Britain condemned Episcopacy as unscriptural. The Scottish Reformers appealed directly to the Scriptures, and taught even the common people to try every doctrine, every statement, by that one standard. The people carried their Bibles with them to Church,

and turned up the passages referred to by the preacher, and thus judged for themselves whether what was spoken was Scriptural or not. Thus the Church of Scotland was in doctrine, worship, government and discipline, founded directly on the word of God. The Bible was in the Church—in the school—in the family. Here lies the true secret of the training which has made Scotland and Scotchmen illustrious all over the world; and hence it is that the great body of the Scottish people could not be circumvented in matters relating to Christ's Crown and Covenant, even by the craftiest of politicians. The Professor traced briefly the struggles of the Scottish people for their religious freedom and independence from the dawn of the Reformation to the disruption and the McMillan Case. The lecture (of which we cannot give even a brief outline) was marked throughout with great ability and was listened to with profound attention.

The classes commenced on Wednesday at the usual hours, and the attendance was as large as usual.

THE REVIVAL IN IRELAND—PRACTICAL RESULTS.

The Rev. A. Dobbin in Boardmills, where the revival began upwards of four months ago, addresses a letter to the "*Banner of Ulster*" as to the practical results of the revival within the sphere of his labours. He notes the following among other results:

1. The desire for prayer amongst the people has received a great and blessed impulse. On two occasions I tried, since my settlement in Boardmills, to establish prayer-meetings throughout the bounds of the congregation, but without success. At the present time, however, there are generally two public prayer-meetings held in my church through the week. The people are anxious that these should be continued during the winter, and have subscribed liberally towards the lighting of the house. On the evenings that no public prayer-meetings are held, the people meet in the school room adjoining, and, without a minister's assistance, there are always found a sufficient number ready to conduct it. There have also been similar meetings established in various parts of the congregation, so that the aged and the young, who might not be able in the winter months to attend the stated prayer-meetings in the church, may enjoy the privilege of meeting with their brethren to worship God in their own districts. 2. There is an increased attendance on the sanctuary, and an increased attention to the preached Word. The people of Boardmills have always been, in comparison with many others, a good church-going people; yet there was in this respect, as in others, need for improvement: and a great improvement is now visible. The Sabbath collection is nearly double what it was before the great work commenced, and the last communion was the largest ever held since my ordination. 3. The missionary spirit is greatly increased. The last missionary collection was just two thirds larger than the first taken after I became their minister; but the missionary spirit is not manifested alone in increased liberality to the cause of God. It