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

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE UNION QUESTION.

WE wish to present to our readers, in a few words, the present state of the Union question. Every one—no matter what his individual feelings may be—ought to know the facts on this all-important matter, that he may be able to guide his conduct aright. In all things, light is good and darkness bad.

Last year, the Synod, having repeatedly voted Union without a dissenting voice, and having also ascertained the mind of Kirk Sessions, sent a remit on the subject down to congregations. What was the result? Summing up the case in the Upper Provinces, 11 of our congregations voted "nay," and 114 voted "yea." In the Maritime Provinces, 11 also voted "nay," and 31 voted "yea." That is, taking the Kirk throughout the Dominion, 22 were opposed to and 145 in favour of the proposed Re-union. In the Synod that met in Ottawa, when the returns had been declared, a motion was carried by 88 to 10 in favour of going on to consummate the Union; and to secure, if possible, unanimous consent to it, certain changes were made in the proposed disposal of the Temporalities Fund. From the ultimate finding of the Synod, 6 ministers and 4 elders dissented.

In the Synod of the Maritime Provinces there has never been a division on the question. But last Synod we had a new fact before us, namely—that the people in several important congregations were opposed to the Union being consummated. That the opposition was not very strong in some of these was evident from the fact that one of the 11 was the very congregation that, five years ago, had petitioned the Synod to take steps to bring about an union. But still there was the fact. Previous to this, the Synod had every reason to suppose that the people of Pictou would accept the Union as willingly as the people everywhere else. Negotiations had gone on for years. The reports of Committees and delegates had been unanimously approved of in Synod. No petition had ever been presented against Union. No man had ever raised his voice against it. We had presented in this a beautiful contrast to all the other negotiating bodies. In all the others, minorities large or small protested against the Union; but we had been unanimous.

What was the Synod to do now? To go back was impossible. To break faith with the negotiating Sister Churches would have been sinful. To disregard a five-sixth vote of the Presbyteries, and a three-fourth vote of the people, would have been uncon-