

Knox college at Toronto, and the United Presbyterian college at London, of which Dr. A. Proudfoot, father of the present minister of that name, was the theological teacher, and which at his death was removed to Toronto.

At the end of seventeen years the relative numbers of these churches were as follows:--the Church of Scotland had just one hundred ministers: the Presbyterian Church of Canada, commonly called the Free Church, had a hundred and fifty-one: the United Presbyterians had sixty-eight. Then it was, in 1861, that the union of the last two was consummated under the name of "the Canada Presbyterian Church," which now entered upon a career of unexampled prosperity, with a staff of two hundred and nineteen ministers. At the end of fourteen years, which brings us to the date of that grandest of all the unions, and in which so many of us were privileged to take a part, the Canada Presbyterian church had come to number three hundred and thirty-eight ministers, as compared with a hundred and forty-one in the Church of Scotland Synod, all told.

In the Maritime Provinces, similar results were reached by only a slightly different process. In Nova Scotia "the Associate Synod of Scotland" had the advantage at the outset. Only four years after Mr. Henry had begun his regular ministrations at Quebec, we find three ministers of the Burgher Synod, Messrs. Smith, Cock, and Graham, organizing themselves into the first Presbytery of British North America at Truro. In 1794, Dr. James McGregor, representing the Anti-Burgher Synod, was joined by two ministers of his own persuasion, who constituted themselves "the Associate Presbytery of Nova Scotia." These two Presbyteries after a separate existence of twenty-three years, at length agreed to unite together, which they did in 1817, when they were called "the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia." This was the first colonial union of churches of which there is any record, and it bid fair at the time to have been completely unanimous. But a handful of leaven had been inserted

the year previous by the Rev. Donald Allan Fraser, a popular minister of the Church of Scotland, who had landed at Pictou in 1816. From this time the adherents of that church grew and multiplied. "The Synod of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia and the adjoining provinces" was formed in 1833, and when the era of division came, in 1844, it had outnumbered all the rest. In that year the standard of the Free Church was raised in the Maritime Provinces; so that until 1860 there were three churches there also aspiring to the supremacy. And thus we are brought to the state of matters immediately prior to the union of 1875, when after lengthened negotiations, "the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America," bringing its contingent of one hundred and twenty-four ministers, and "the Synod in connection with the Church of Scotland," with thirty-one ministers on its roll, met their brethren from the west, in the city of Montreal, and, in the exercise of their constitutional powers, through their respective supreme courts, each declared itself to be identical with THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA—which may the Great King and Head of the church long continue to bless and prosper!

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

We gladly make room for the following letter from the far west. We assure Mr. McGregor and his co-labourers in that distant part of the Dominion, of our sympathies with them, and of our deep interest in the great work they have in hand. We wish them all success in the work of the Lord, and shall be glad to hear from them again.—ED.

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

15th Oct., 1875.

*Editor of the Presbyterian Record.*

DEAR SIR.—According to promise, I send you a brief statement of the present position of the Church in this Province, hoping it may prove of some interest to our friends in Eastern Canada.