

**LEGISLATION WITH REFERENCE TO UNION.**

The Synod's Draft Act has been submitted to the Legislatures of Prince Edward's Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. In the Houses of the two former Provinces, no opposition was made and no amendments offered. So far as we know, the Bill has passed in them. With regard to Nova Scotia, the case was somewhat different. The Pictou congregations, thinking that the Act was more than permissive, though that was all it was intended to be, petitioned for certain amendments. The following paragraph from the *Morning Herald* shows how these have been dealt with:

"The select Committee of the House of Assembly, to which the Bill of the Kirk Synod, on Union, had been referred, met on Thursday. They summoned the members from Pictou County to give explanations with reference to petitions that had been presented by several congregations in that County, asking for amendments to the bill. The three members, and also the Hon. James Fraser, accordingly met the Committee; and the Rev. Messrs. Grant and John Campbell, and John Doull and J. S. McDonald, Esqrs., appeared as representing the views of the Synod. After an amicable discussion, it appeared that a modification of the first amendment asked for would meet the views of all parties; and it was accordingly agreed to add the following amendment to the bill:—

'That no vested rights, or freehold property, be converted or transferred, only on the vote of two-thirds of the pew-owners, expressed at a public meeting of the congregation called for the purpose, after due notice.'

With this amendment, we presume the bill will pass."

**PRESBYTERIAN CONCERT FOR PRAYER.**

Arrangements are now being made for the annual meeting of the Presbyterian Synods in Montreal; and as we may assume that the Bills relating to Church property have passed the respective Legislatures of the various Provinces, no insurmountable barrier exists in the way of the re-union of the four negotiating Churches, during the sitting of the Synods. The Business Committees have an arduous task before them, requiring the exercise of no ordinary skill and judgment in arranging for this important meeting, so that everything may

be made to work effectively and without loss of time; and no doubt wise heads and willing hearts are prepared to co-operate to make the occasion one of the most impressive and interesting within the recollection of the members of the various Courts. At the same time, Delegates from the Church of Scotland in the Upper Provinces are shortly to leave Montreal, to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of our Church, to be held in Edinburgh on the 20th of May, for the purpose of conveying to that Venerable Body, in terms of their appointment by the Synod, full information respecting the position of the negotiations which have been going on for the past five years, with reference to the Union, and of the motives which have led the Synod to agree to its early consummation, so that the Parent Church will be able the more clearly to understand the nature of the whole proceedings.

In the peculiar circumstances of the whole Church, would it not be appropriate for her to join publicly in united thanksgiving to the Almighty Disposer of all things, for the great favour with which He has been pleased to bless the labours of His servants? and also to implore His heavenly guidance and counsel in the future? The Spirit of the Lord has been and still is breathing new life into His waiting people all over the Provinces, and a remarkable oneness of spirit characterizes the Church, and more than ever do men see eye to eye, and manifest the grace of brotherly love.

We attempt no definite proposal, but think the Moderators of the respective Synods of the Dominion might, by immediate correspondence with each other, agree to recommend to the ministers within their bounds, the setting apart of a given day—say some Sabbath or week-day in May—when special services would be held and sermons preached bearing upon the subject of Christian Union, and advising the holding of evening meetings for prayer to God that His people may be more closely allied to Himself and one another, that our congregations may be revived, and that all engaged in the work of cementing the scattered fragments of the Church of the Reformation may be graciously filled with the Holy Ghost.