

by other Presbyterians, she plants a *Presbyterian Church*; and it was the maintenance of her *principles*, not the adoption of the name "*Free*," that established our connexion with the *Free Church of Scotland*. It is not the word that makes us *free*, but the principles. Now that we are come to the point of accomplishing a great work, woe be to that man who for a *word*, a word which in truth he does not understand, dares to distract and break the unanimity of the Church! I was told this morning that a sincere Christian would care for the *principles* and for the *word*. I am not given to boasting, but I trust I am a sincere Christian, and I am willing to give up that word. I give up the word *free* without one feeling of regret, while I am profoundly attached to the *Free Church*, and ready to make any sacrifice for her principles. No; rather than give up her principles, I would die! I enter most cordially into this union because our principles are maintained, and I would not dare, for a word, to deprive multitudes in this Province of the means of grace with which the united body will be able to supply them. It is of importance to remember, that the *Free Church of Scotland* is cognizant of all the steps we have taken, and that we have her cordial approval. *She cannot and will not recognize any minister or congregation that will separate from us while we hold our principles.* In separating from us they separate from the *Free Church of Scotland*—for they separate from the only body with which the *Free Church* will hold fraternal intercourse. The *Free Church* will not recognize a divisive body. Let those who object think over the matter—pray over it, and ask themselves *what reason* they have for the course they may pursue. *They are no friends to the Free Church of Scotland* who try to poison your minds and endeavor to break in upon the unity and harmony of the Church. Remember that *we* are responsible to God for the steps we are taking—remember that you, too, are responsible to the Searcher of hearts! With what face can anybody apply for countenance to the *Free Church* after breaking off from us at the instigation and to the great delight of her malicious enemies. It is those who really *hate* the *Free Church* that desire to disturb your peace. Be not deceived. You may take credit for attachment to the *Free Church*, while in truth your attachment is to the word *free*."

The following was the final Minute of the *Free Church Synod*, and of the other *Synod* too, with the necessary changes.

"The *Synod of the Free Church of Nova Scotia*, considering that a *Basis of Union* with the *Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia*, has been prepared, deli-

berately considered and cordially sanctioned by both *Synods*; and having been remitted for the consideration of *Presbyteries* and *Kirk Sessions*, has met with their cordial and unanimous approval, and considering that by the good hand of their God upon them they have completed all other preparatory arrangements, do now with fervent gratitude to God for past goodness to the *Free Church of Nova Scotia*, and for having led them and their brethren of the *Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia* thus far, and in humble dependence on His gracious blessing in the solemn and interesting step they are about to take, and with earnest prayer that He would pour down the rich influences of His Spirit on the united Church, and would enable her ministers, elders and people to improve the privileges they enjoy, and discharge the obligations devolving on them, resolve and hereby record their *Resolution*, forthwith to repair as a constituted *Synod* to the place prepared in order that they may there, as arranged, unite with their brethren of the *Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia*, and form one *Synod* to be known as 'The *Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America*,' and that they may henceforth work together in the fear of God and in the comforts of the Holy Ghost—striving for the faith of the Gospel, for the purity of Divine ordinances, and for the enlargement of the Church of Christ: And this *Synod* declare that whereas they are the *Synod of the identical Church* which in the year 1814 assumed the designation of 'The *Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia* adhering to the Westminster Standards,' and which in 1848 assumed its present designation of 'The *Free Church of Nova Scotia*,' so they shall be considered the *Synod of the same Free Church* when, united with the *Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia*, it shall be known under the designation of the 'Synod of the *Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America*,' and shall be entitled to, and vested in all the authority, rights, and benefits to which it is now, or may become entitled: And this *Synod* further declare that each of the congregations under its inspection, whether they shall adopt a name to be hereafter fixed, or shall retain, as they shall be permitted to do if they shall deem proper, the name by which they have hitherto been designated, shall not be held, though remaining in consequence of this Union under the inspection of the *Synod of the united Church*, as in any respect changing their ecclesiastical connection, or affecting any of their civil rights."

On the morning of Thursday the fourth, the greatest interest was manifested by all in *Pictou*, where were assembled many *Presbyterians* from various quarters of the Province. It had been arranged that the two *Synods* should meet and consummate the Union on a rising ground in the neighborhood of *Pictou*, on which were erected two tents, connected together, one of them surmounted by the 'Blue Banner' of the *Presbyterian Church* of other days, with the legend—"FOR CHRIST'S CROWN AND COVENANT," and the other having floating over it

a white banner with the inscription—"THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE." To these tents which were filled to overflowing, the members of the two *Synods* walked in procession. The *Rev. Mr. Murdoch* the senior Moderator gave out the hundredth Psalm. The Clerks read the final minutes of the respective *Synods*. The Rolls were then called, after which the *Rev. P. G. McGregor* read the *Basis of Union* which was engrossed on parchment, the members of the two *Synods* standing, while the *Basis of Union* was being read. The two Moderators thereafter affixed their signatures to the *Basis of Union*.

The *Rev. Mr. Murdoch* then declared that the *Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia* was from this date merged into and should be known as the "*Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America*," and should be entitled to all the rights, and vested in all the privileges, to which it is now, or may hereafter become entitled. The *Rev. Mr. Forbes* having made a similar declaration in reference to the *Free Church*, the Moderators gave each other the right hand of fellowship—all the ministers and elders following their example, the choir and the whole audience singing the 133rd Psalm,

"Behold how good a thing it is."

This was a most affecting scene, and the big tears rolled down many a cheek not used to weeping.

*Mr. Murdoch* then moved, and *Mr. Forbes* seconded that the *Rev. Professor King* be now chosen Moderator. This was agreed to unanimously, and the Professor took the chair amid loud and repeated cheers. He then offered up solemn prayer; after which it was moved by *Mr. Bayne* and seconded by *Mr. N. McKay*, that Messrs. *Duff* and *McGregor* be the Clerks of the *Synod*, and agreed unanimously. The Roll of the united *Synod* was then called and every member requested to signify his assent or dissent from the *Basis of Union*. All gave their assent. Members then signed the *Basis* in order of seniority.

*Rev. Mr. McGillivray* gave out a Psalm and read some passages of Scripture, after which *Mr. Roy* offered up Prayer.

*Professor King* then addressed the *Synod* in very spirited and appropriate terms.

Several other addresses were also delivered. The *Rev. Dr. McLeod* of *Cape Breton* was appointed to address the meeting in Gaelic, but a severe cold caught while travelling to the opening of a new Church prevented him from being present.

The *Presbyterian Witness* makes the following remarks as the Union now so happily consummated.