

ered at the Toronto Club, most happily told how he replied to the insinuating overtures for a closer union between ourselves and our American cousins. "We, in Canada," he told them, "are a very *democratic* people. We desire to have the advisers of the Crown always amenable to the popular will. Once in four years would not satisfy us at all. We must have them under control during the whole period in which they hold office. We could not therefore cast in our lot with you, for the people would thereby relinquish their liberty and their power." We do not remember to have read a more delicate and beautiful handling of a delicate topic than this, and our American friends could not fail to be impressed with the idea that Canada has a good reason to give for the course she is endeavoring to strike out for herself on this continent. To reproduce the British constitution, with its marvellous heritages of balanced power and liberty; to train up a race of lawyers, judges and magistrates imbued with the tradition of British justice, and to do this across the breadth of a whole continent,—these are objects which are worth some labor, some sacrifices, to attain. And if Canada can consolidate the great edifice she has begun to build under Confederation, and can hold on her way for the next twenty years at the pace she has maintained during the last five, she will have achieved a position which will compel respect and admiration both from our somewhat cold mother country and from other nations, and we cannot but see that a Governor of the stamp of Lord Dufferin is thoroughly well fitted to help on such a noble consummation.

A very significant announcement appears in the last number of the *Ontario Gazette*. Notice is there given of an application to Parliament that the properties formerly held by the two great Presbyterian bodies of the Dominion (or rather, strictly speaking, the four, for the churches of the Maritime Provinces were always distinct) shall now be held by the united body, to be designated, "The Presbyterian Church in Canada."

This union is a landmark on the ecclesi-

astical history of Canada. The negotiations to bring about this desirable union have been most protracted, and the discussions almost painfully tedious. Simple reason and logic might have brought about a settlement long ago; but sentiment and association and tradition are powerful influences with some men, and far more difficult to deal with in endeavors to bring about a union. These influences often dominate both logic and reason unconsciously to their subject. Every obstacle, however, has been removed at last, and the Presbyterians who separated at the time of the last great rupture in Scotland, are now again one. That this will be for the benefit of the Church itself, and of the cause of truth and righteousness generally, cannot be doubted. It will economize men and money and time, and of none of these has the Church of Christ too much. It will stop heartburning and disputation and jealousy, and will remove a source of scandal to the outside world. "See how these brethren bite and devour one another!" has often been said by scorners, and, alas! only too often with bitter truth. Christians have not exhibited such a spectacle of mutual love as to compel respect. There can be no denying such a patent fact as this, and if the fact were seen in its painfulness, acknowledged, grieved for, and repented of, a better day would dawn on the professing Christian world. The *odium theologicum* has been the scandal and shame of the Church, for whilst fierce disputants contended about their *Shibboleths* and *Sibboleths*, a keen-eyed and scoffing world has looked on and laughed. Christ has nowhere been so sorely wounded as in the house of His friends. These movements for reuniting those who have been separated cannot, therefore, but be looked on with interest by all whose hearts are in the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom. Another union taking place in another branch of the Church is also just being consummated. At the time of writing this, there is assembled in the Metropolitan Wesleyan Church, Toronto, a conference of ministers and laymen, representing the union of the two long separate branches of the great Methodist family. Many years