

DEPUTATION FROM THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.

At the hour of 7½ the Deputation from the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of N. S. was announced by the Officer to be at the door. The Clerk proceeded to the door forthwith, where he was met by the Rev. P. MacGregor, who introduced the Deputation, which consisted of the Rev. Professor Smith, Rev. Professor Ross, Rev. James Bayne, and Mr. Charles Robson, and also presented their Commission. The Clerk then led the Deputation to the Moderator's Chair, and, the members of the Court standing, introduced these gentlemen in order to the Moderator, who expressed himself highly gratified at receiving them. Their commission being read, it was intimated that the Synod were prepared to hear them.

Rev. Professor Smith, who led the Deputation, then rose and said:

Moderator and Brethren—We have come here to-night with the view of requesting you to correspond with us in promoting friendly feeling. In the Providence of God we have been cast upon these Western shores, and left here to cultivate our respective fields. We have done that with but little intercourse, at the same time treating each other with respectful feelings. A long time ago I met with several members of your Church, and then I made an earnest effort to cultivate a closer acquaintance. The hopes of being more successful never left our minds. Your Synod is a branch of the Church of Scotland. As a Scotchman I honour the Church of Scotland. Scotchmen are found in almost every region of the Earth, and, wherever they have their residence, the Church of Scotland is spoken of with pride. I am an Alumnus of the Glasgow College. I studied there 10 or 12 years, and 3 of these I spent under the amiable and celebrated Dr. Stevenson Macgill. Had I studied 1 year more, I might have been permitted to take license in the Church of Scotland. These circumstances brought me into close intercourse with the students and ministers of the Church of Scotland. Sir, I have undertaken to lead this Deputation with great pleasure. Now, in proportion as I honour the Church of Scotland, and as I speak in complimentary terms of that Church, let me earnestly entreat you to reflect thoughtfully on the object of this Deputation. It is true, Moderator, we can serve our Master in our respective spheres of action, but unquestionably with much better effect if we could co-operate, if in many things we could unite our efforts, as in promoting the interests of Education and Religion so far as it is practicable. And will you blame me if I presume to cherish the hope that, if we are received with frankness, and this Deputation is approved of, it may eventually lead to a close connection, fruitful of good works, a credit to ourselves, and hailed with much satisfaction by the congregations belonging to our respective bodies? Sir, we are Presbyterians; I trust you, like me, are proud of being a Presbyterian and that you believe firmly that, in carrying out Presbyterian principles, you are most efficiently promoting the interests intrusted to us. If carried out to all its extent, who can tell what an influence co-operation would shed upon the best interests of this Province? Oh! Moderator, I have long deplored our divisions. Of every committee of our Church on this subject I have formed one. Many years have elapsed since the first effort was made, and new circumstances have arisen. The Province finds itself in a very different position to-day. We have common interests to promote, and there are common enemies rising-up that Presbyterians are best able to meet and repel; but, in order to do this successfully, I am of opinion that it will require our united exertions.—I content myself with making those general observations and with stating what an interest I feel, what a respect I bear your body, how desirous I am to solicit and obtain your co-operation in everything fitted to promote our general welfare.

Rev. Professor Ross; Moderator, I esteem it no small honour, and I find it to be a very sweet pleasure to be permitted to meet this venerable body, and to express my feelings of the kindness with which we have been received.

Sir, we have heard from our earliest infancy the venerated names of Knox, Melville and Guthrie, and deeply have we to regret that circumstances did occur to break our union with the Church to which these men belonged. We hail every symptom of a prospect of intercourse and kindly sentiment. It is pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity. We have the same Church polity, the same evangelical doctrines, the same discipline, the same mode of worship. We preach and our people listen to the doctrines of the same Saviour, the same fundamental doctrines of the Calvinistic system. We are fighting against a common foe. We are engaged in the same struggle against the Prince of Darkness, whether he manifests himself in ignorance and barbarity, or in irreligion and immorality. Why then should we not co-operate? Moderator, we will never entertain the same kindly Christian feelings to each other, that we ought to entertain, if we keep at a great distance, and look at each other through the mists of jealousy and rivalry. Things will become worse. But, the nearer we see each other, there is not the slightest doubt but we shall value and esteem and love each other more and more. There are many points on which we might co-operate. We can co-operate on General Education, and even on Religious Education. We can surely co-operate in endeavours to suppress the desecration of the Christian Sabbath. Here we have an especial cause to unite our efforts, for one of the distinctive peculiarities of Presbyterianism is respect for the Sabbath-day.—There are many parts of this Province too that contain a vast amount of immorality and vice; and by co-operation, by the principle of division of labour, eternity alone would reveal the amount of good that might be done. We do not in the meantime contemplate the subject of union. That must be the work of time. We see it looming in the distance, but we know for ourselves and our people it must be a work of time. Our object at present is merely to have friendly co-operation; and we do hope that in thus co-operating we will come soon to esteem and love each other as Christian brethren; and it may be that even in those points, on which we are not altogether agreed, we may ultimately find that our differences are not so very great. We will follow the leadings of Providence for future steps. Moderator, let me through you entreat earnestly of the Fathers and Brethren to believe that these are not mere words, but that they proceed from the deep feelings of the heart. "For our friends' and brethren's sake, I will now say, peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces." "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord cause His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift upon you the light of His countenance, and give you peace."

Rev. James Bayne, Pictou; Moderator, I state at the outset that I feel at home. I remember that among the first pulpits, from which I preached in this country, was that pulpit of St. Matthew's; I have at my left one with whom I exchange pulpits frequently. I feel at home.

What, Sir, I would ask, is the common principle upon which one Christian loves another. Is it not likeness to our common Lord? What begets love in the heart of the Christian? It is because Christ's countenance is the most comely object. On the same principle, the more closely we see the lineaments of our brethren, the greater will be our mutual love. You have oftentimes seen, when the tide has receded, little pools or shallows, the tiny inhabitants of which are unable to visit each other. In a separate state, they must wait till the tide has returned upon them and brought them together. So is it with Christians. Let the tide of Divine Love visit the Churches and what will be the consequence? All Christians will come together. The first question then should be, How shall this tide of love come back? We must ask it as the gift of God. And so the first step is a union-prayer-meeting. We must, every man, pray that the influence of Divine love may descend upon our hearts. In our divided state what advantage do we give the common enemy? What has kept us hitherto apart cannot longer continue.

Some common ground must be found. That common ground may be our common Protestant religion and Presbyterian creed. What would be the Presbyterian cause if we were one? What a noble Educational Institute we might have! What noble efforts for the Heathen we might make! We are at present acting a hostile part. We are destroying our own influence. We are guilty of keeping back an influence before which the influences of the Man of Sin would be effectually repulsed. The Presbyterian army is so divided that by an attack it would be made to disappear before the enemy. But let us appear in one common battalion, and where is the force that would successfully assail us? Remain divided, and you remain weak. Unite and be triumphant. We have many objects in common. The people are going forward. The question is making progress. We must be careful to keep pace, that we who are the leaders do not lag. Let me refer to Missionary operations. Some of you are familiar with the success of our Mission in the Hebridean group. No one mission has with the same limited amount of expenditure ever returned the same rich harvest. Our missionary has given a common invitation to Presbyterians. Is not this an excellent object in which we might co-operate? I conclude by expressing the happiness I have in addressing you, and the hope that this will not be the last time we shall meet as we have met to-night.

Mr. Charles Robson, Elder; Moderator, I firmly and deeply entertain the sentiments just uttered. I esteem it an honour to be one of this Deputation. The sentiments of friendship and confidence are held towards you by the vast majority of our people. We look with delight on the noble characteristics of the Church of Scotland, and we believe that you look with pleasure on the resemblance between our Church and yours. I can speak for our Elders, and I know that I speak truthfully when I say that they cherish feelings of regard for this Church, and are desirous that we should be drawn together by bonds of attachment. Mr. R. made many interesting and encouraging statements in his speech, and concluded by observing that brethren of the same Church often differ, and differ warmly: but, said he, How seldom do they quarrel! It is because they are one. And I do feel that, were our differences discussed by men, members of the same Church, there would be far less quarreling than there now is.

The members of the Deputation having addressed the Synod, they were followed immediately after by Rev. John Scott, who said; Moderator, I have always been in favour of union among Presbyterians. It is true that the old land-marks must yet continue for some time. There may still be the Free Church of N. S., the Presbyterian Church of N. S., and the Church of Scotland in N. S. But there are many things in which we might co-operate. I do not see why, after the meetings of our Synods, there should not be a conference or convention that would take up the questions of Missions, of Education, and many others which we would all like to discuss. I always regret that we have not a part in the Foreign Mission that has been carried on with such success by my brethren. If a committee is appointed, I hope that Committee will consider whether there might not be a convention. I am sure this would finally issue in a still closer union.

Rev. A. W. Herdman; Moderator, I rise not because I feel myself worthy, much less because I intend to anticipate the remarks of my brethren, but because my friend and brother, Mr. Bayne, has alluded to me. When I was cast upon these shores, and saw but one brother minister of our Church, I took counsel of God and, observing many ministers of the Presbyterian Church of N. S., I did call upon the several ministers that occasion threw in my way, and was welcomed by one and all. We reciprocated and the best feelings were between us. We exchanged on the Sabbath on a Christian ground. I rejoice to have lived to see the day when the matter of