

sympathy by saluting each other in the same way, and by repeated bursts of acclamation.

As says a writer on this subject,*—"This seemed the climax of the interest excited by the day's proceedings. While every head was stretched forward to observe the salutations between the two Moderators, the tide of sympathy swelled to overflowing; the members of Court and the audience alike giving expression to their feelings, each according to his natural temperament; some shedding tears of joy and gratitude; others affected with almost convulsive emotion; some saluting their new brethren with countenances beaming with animated delight, as if contemplating only the joy of the scene before them; others apparently overwhelmed in grave and solemn astonishment. Those of them especially whose labours in committees and otherwise, had been chiefly instrumental in bringing round the interesting event, appeared to be deeply affected with the happy termination of their protracted labours."

It had been previously agreed that the oldest minister present, to whatever side he had belonged, should be chosen Moderator of the United Synod; and, therefore, on the motion of the Rev. Mr. Auld, to which a cordial response was given, the Rev. Dr. Kidston was elected to that honourable office. The members of Court all rose as he proceeded to take the chair. Venerable in age, and especially as being at least in the 57th year of his ministry, yet the Doctor was able to conduct with a clear and audible voice the solemn services which now devolved on him. He did this by reading Psalm 132nd, and then constituting the Synod by prayer, after which he gave out the first three verses of Psalm 147th, to be sung by the Assembly, which he remarked were most appropriate to their present peculiar circumstances. The Rev. Edward Dobbie was then called on to lead in prayer. This was followed by singing the last four verses of Psalm 122nd. When this was done the Rev. Dr. Lindsay, one of the Professors on the Relief side, and the Rev. Dr. Harper, one of the Professors on the Secession side, were called on, successively, to address the meeting, which they did in a most appropriate, solemn, and energetic manner. When the addresses were delivered, the Rev. Dr. Hay of Kinross, was requested to lead in prayer,—after which Psalm 60th 3-5 was sung.

Several appropriate votes of thanks were now moved :—1 By James Peddie, Esq., a vote of thanks to the Committee of the Free Church, through whose kindness the spacious Hall was placed at their disposal, and in particular to the convener, the Rev. Mr. Jaffray, for his personal services, which had been found indispensable, to have the Hall in readiness for their meeting. 2. Dr. Beattie moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Peddie, and the other members of the committee of arrangements. 3. Dr. Brown proposed that the two Professors should furnish the manuscripts of their admirable addresses for publication. 4. The thanks of the Synod were proposed to Dr. McKelvie and Professor McMichael, the conveners of the committees to whom the preparatory measures for the Union of the two Synods were entrusted. Lastly, the moderator proposed a special vote of thanks to the Rev. Dr. McKelvie, who had been the first mover for this

*Memorials of the Union, page 68.