

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 Nova Scotia, 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 union has assumed a palpable footing. Sir, what is the prayer of Our Lord, three, aye five times uttered in that one Chapter, the 17th of John's Gospel, that all his disciples may be one? What is that beautiful psalm, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" And what is the allusion, "As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion." Hermon and Zion were thirty miles apart. The dew that descended upon Hermon, descended also upon Zion, Zion envied not Hermon, Hermon envied not Zion. May I not say this is true of our churches. When the blessing in answer to many prayers will come upon our body to revive it, will it not come equally upon the other body. Moderator, we must allow that a Christian stranger looking at the matter and seeing the two bodies so far apart, will and must say, when his heart is drawn out to pray, "God revive thy work." The Christian Minister looks at the field of his brother minister, and he sees that minister cry for rain. Does not the sentiment arise that not only may, his own body be blessed, but that of his brother minister also? I say you dare not shut out the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, from your prayers. There can be nothing out of place in co-operating in prayer meetings, and missions, provided only the interests and principles of each be not compromised. I have not to be told that because I belong to one regiment, therefore, I must not love the common army. Did the fact of the French lending the British 10,000 overcoats make us feel less that we belonged to Great Britain. So we may co-operate and yet remain, holding those portions of truth we regard as essential to our distinctiveness, and holding them in the true spirit of charity, forbearance, and love. I look upon present advantages from this step whatever others may follow. Is the fact of ministers loving one another. Is that no advantage? Surely the language of the Psalmist is appropriate. Is the fact of our people feeding together as they ought, is that nothing? Is it nothing to go home to our flocks, and tell them what has taken place this night? I conclude with saying, that not alone the Free Church, not alone the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, not alone the Church of Scotland is to get the credit on this occasion, but the Church of Christ.

Dr. Avery.—Moderator, as a man of very few words, I simply say how much I am gratified with this evening's occurrence. I have always had a warm attachment to the different bodies of Presbyterians. I have always spoken of the disadvantage of their being separate and of the advantage that would result from their being united. I shall do all in my power to promote that union.

Rev. W. Snodgrass said, this was such an occurrence as he had longed and prayed for. He could say that he had not only been desirous of co-operation with the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, but to the utmost of

his ability, he had already co-operated. He had made it his duty to show that he was biassed by no sectarianism, either with reference to the Free Church or the Church whose deputation is now present. He held that in doing so he had made no sacrifice of principle, no, not even an iota of principle, on the contrary he had the satisfaction of feeling that a higher Christian principle than that which kept Presbyterians divided, was by such conduct maintained and upheld. Ever since he had stepped on this Province, he had lamented the divided state in which Presbyterians are situated and still more the sad and melancholy fruits of their divisions. Hoping that this occurrence was but the precursor of a firm and satisfactory union, he hailed the presence of the deputation, and the addresses to which they had listened, as a new epoch in the history of Presbyterianism in these Provinces. He believed the whole subject was now regularly before the court, by the authenticated extracts from the Synod Records of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, which had that evening been read, and by the statements which had just been made by the Deputation, explanatory of the brotherly intercourse desired in the meantime by that church, and in support of it, and, as he had reason to know, from a letter accompanying these extracts, that the time at which the proceedings of the other Synod would be brought to a close, would not allow of their sending a Deputation to meet that court, he would move the following resolution, which, while it would bring the matter to a point, would also meet, he hoped, the views and wishes of their brethren of the deputation, as well as express the sentiments entertained of this court; he then read and submitted a resolution as follows. "That this Synod, heartily concurring in the strong desire expressed by the Rev. the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, in the extract minutes communicated by order of said Synod to this court, and by the sentiments now uttered in the addresses of the members of the deputation, to whom the members of this court have been privileged to listen, hereby declare themselves ready to co-operate in the adoption of such steps, as to them may seem proper, for the establishing of mutual confidence between the Synods and for the securing and promoting of harmonious feeling and action, appoint a committee to confer with any committee that may be appointed by the other Synod, for the attainment of these objects, and instruct the clerk to send a copy of this resolution, to the clerk of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, at his earliest convenience."

Mr. Snodgrass concluded by saying that if this resolution passed it would give him the greatest pleasure to record it in their minutes. Perhaps for many years to come, perhaps when they were gone, others would point with gratitude to the fact that this resolution is to be found in the records of the Synod of the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia. Perhaps like the solitary footprint, which the tide has not reached or effaced, guiding the wanderer on the almost pathless shore it would encourage and cheer many a spirit.

Rev. A. Mackay—Moderator I cordially second the motion. I express the greatest satisfaction at the sentiments uttered by the members of the deputation who have visited our Court. I respect them for the manner in which they have expressed themselves so highly in reference to our Church at home. The Church, which has met us has been before our Church, planted itself here, opposed error, and ad-

vanced the interests of truth. We can respect them on various grounds. We may also initiate them. I second the motion.

Rev. A. Pollock.—Moderator, I think the course proposed by Mr. Snodgrass is more graceful and pleasing than any other. I think it will be best that the members of the deputation go away in possession of this resolution. The resolution seems to embody the feelings expressed by the last gentleman who spoke. It is a matter of singular gratification to me to witness this scene, I will always recur to this as something pleasing, and it is a high privilege that we have been favored to meet together at this time. Many things have been said respectfully of the Church of Scotland. We must be allowed to say that we also respect them. They were first on this field, and first occupied the waste places supplying spiritual destitution, and applying their admirable machinery to the noble purpose of preaching the Gospel to destitute souls. I must be allowed further to state that as an individual, I must claim for myself the privilege of having acted out the sentiments expressed in the resolution. I was not more than a fortnight in New Glasgow when one of their ministers called and asked me to co-operate in a union prayer meeting. That, the Presbyterian ministers of New Glasgow, with one exception, have done, since I went there. We have met and prayed together and addressed the same people. We have had much satisfaction in this. It has been pleasing to the spirit, and tending to many pleasing remembrances.

Rev. A. MacGillivray—Moderator, if we had not received this deputation as we have done, we would not have acted as Christians. If we had not received as we have done those who have come with an offer of peace, presenting an opportunity of coming nearer and acting more closely on a friendly footing, we would not have acted as Christians. Mr. Bayne has referred to their Foreign Mission. Sir, a report of that Mission brought me to my knees and I have prayed that God would bless that Church. And I do believe that God has showered back his blessings upon them again. There is not a sentiment in the resolution that I would not second. I wish that Committees would be appointed by both Synods, that steps may be taken even before the separation of the Synods.

Rev. A. McLean, Moderator, the scene we have witnessed we were accustomed to hear of as something that would one day or other take place. I did not expect when I came here to witness this scene and my feelings are such that I cannot express them. A great step has been taken. It strikes us as something new, and why? It is not extraordinary. It is just what should always be the case. Let the most be made of our differences, they form no ground whatever for anything to keep us apart, for any lessening of that affection, which as followers of the same Master we are bound to entertain towards each other. Looking upon this as a great step I think we should not part without entreating the blessing of God upon what we have seen and heard.

Rev. Geo. W. Spott.—Moderator, while I cordially support the motion, I feel that it is only the speedy rising of the other Synod that should prevent us from appointing a deputation to meet them. I trust this may be remedied another year, by our meeting at the same time, which at the conclusion of our Synod meetings, we can arrange. With regard to the question of unity, we cannot expect the world to be converted, until the Church is one. Our Saviour says, "that they all may be one, as