

in a former letter, is likely to lead (as indeed it has already led) to important results. A large body of the parishioners, feeling themselves deeply aggrieved by the settlement among them of the Presentee, to whom they were strongly opposed, have applied for Sermon to the Paisley and Greenock Presbytery of the U. P. Church, and steps have been taken for forming them into a Congregation in connexion with that body. There is the prospect of their being a good self-supporting Congregation. And while this has been the result in the parish, the effect of the settlement in other quarters has been significantly manifested. A memorial from a large and influential meeting of lay members of the Church of Scotland, held in Glasgow lately, was presented to a recent meeting of the Glasgow Established Presbytery. In this document the evils of patronage are deprecated, and the unsatisfactory character of Lord Aberdeen's Act, as proved by the Kilmacolin case, is pointed out; and an earnest desire is expressed that means should be adopted for another and better arrangement. If floating straws indicate the direction of the current we may look out for a Parliamentary discussion, at least, on the position and prospects of the Kirk.

We have just had among us another terrible calamity in the shape of a call by the liquidators of the Western Bank of £100 per share, after the preceding one of £25. This, it is understood, will bring utter and immediate ruin to multitudes who imagined that the worst was past. The income of our Churches, both for congregational and missionary purposes, has been and will be seriously influenced.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

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CONFERENCE OF JOINT COMMITTEES ON UNION IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The Committees appointed respectively by the Free Synod and the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia to confer on the subject of union between the two bodies, met during September in Halifax. Both Churches, we have reason to know, have been looking anxiously for this meeting, and great disappointment would have been experienced had it been productive of no progress. We are happy to learn that those interested in the object of the meeting have no reason to feel disappointed, but on the contrary abundant cause for thanksgiving to God both for the spirit of fraternal concord which prevailed in the deliberations of the Conference and for the steps unanimously taken.

A Basis has been agreed to. This does not ensure union, but it is the *laying of the foundation*, and should it be well laid and of good sound material, the time occupied in its preparation will have been well spent. The Basis adopted is substantially the same as that published in our August number as adopted by the Committee of the two bodies in 1844. The only difference consists in a very few verbal alterations introduced by the Free Synod in 1846, when it was adopted by that body. It is a token for good that this Basis has been adopted *unanimously* by the Committees to be recommended to their respective Synods.

The Committees, we understand, were not inclined to move quite so fast as our brethren of both Synods in Prince Edward Island Presbyteries appear to wish. One strong objection to a *pro re nata* meeting of Synods was the certainty that such a meeting would be *less fully attended* than the ordinary annual meeting; and certainly it would be both *unwise* and *unjust* to take at a disadvantage the more distant brethren of both Churches, and practically to deprive them of their privilege of taking part in the discussion of the subject at *every* stage of its progress. In resolving therefore to recommend the Basis to their respective Synods, at their next ordinary meeting, the Committees we think acted judiciously. We are persuaded that even the brethren of Prince Edward Island, who are happily so forward in this matter, will cordially acquiesce in the wisdom of the course adopted, when they learn that the Basis which they approved will come before the Synods in June recommended by the Committees; and farther, that other phases of the subject, involving details of a practical character, have been remitted to a Sub-Committee, so that the *whole question* may then be presented and may be remitted without delay to Sessions.

We are persuaded that the union, both in Canada and Nova Scotia, *will ere long be accomplished*. Let it now become a theme for conversation and a subject of *frequent and earnest prayer*. It is not yet *formally* before Sessions and congre-