

Montreal, visited these regions, at the request of the Colonial Society in connection with the Congregational Union of England and Wales, which Society had been formed only a few years before. The immediate result of that visit was the arrival of the Rev. James Porter at Sheffield, N. B.—and of the Rev. J. C. Gallaway, A. M., at Saint John, N. B., in the fall of 1843. For a few months after the arrival of these Brethren, they heard of no Congregational Church in either of these Provinces except the one at Sheffield. At length, tidings of the existence of the Churches at Cornwallis, Falmouth, Liverpool and Yarmouth having been conveyed to them; and Mr. Gallaway having paid a visit to these brethren in the year 1845; it was arranged to hold a preparatory meeting at Liverpool, in the summer of 1846, with a view to the formation of a Congregational Union for these two Provinces. The principles and objects of such Association having been fully discussed at Liverpool; every security having been taken that the Union should involve no compromise of principle, and that the full rights and privileges of each Church should be sacredly maintained; it was agreed to adjourn that Meeting till the following October, when the Delegates and the Pastors of the different Churches, who desired such a Union, might, after full investigation, proceed to form it. This adjourned Meeting was held in St. John, N. B. in October, 1846, where and when the Union was formed. The following extracts from the constitution of the Union will at once explain the principles, the objects, and the instrumentality of the Society :—

“The objects shall be the promotion of brotherly affection, the diffusion of Christianity, agreeably to the principles and usages of the Congregationalists, and co-operation with other kindred Associations.

“The means to be adopted shall be prayer, the preaching of the Gospel, and other efforts at the discretion of the Union.

“The regulation of the affairs of the Union shall be vested in the general Meeting, consisting of the Pastors and Delegates of the Associated Churches, and the Missionaries employed by the Society. Each Church shall be entitled to send two or more Delegates.

“The general Meeting, which is always to be open to the public, shall assemble for the despatch of business on the Thursday following the first Sabbath in July, and shall appropriate at least three entire days to the general purposes of the Union.”

At this Meeting in St. John, the Declaration of the faith, church order, and discipline of the Congregationalists was agreed to; and arrangements made for printing 3000 copies.—The Rev. S. Murkland having reported his visit to Musquodoboit, and having sought the advice of the Meeting, was recommended to accept the cordial invitation which he had received, and was promised the special assistance of the Union.