

**The Monthly Record.**

AUGUST, 1879.

Last month the Rev. George Sprott, the delegate from the Church of Scotland at home, held a conference in St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, at which most of our ministers were present, and a score or two of prominent laymen. Roderick McKenzie, Esq. acted as chairman. Mr. Sprott stated that last General Assembly desired the Colonial Committee to send a delegate to enquire into matters in Canada anent union. It was hoped that the Rev. Norman McLeod, Edinburgh, or his brother, the Rev. John McLeod, Govan, could undertake the duty, but owing to the short notice they declined. In these circumstances the Col. Com. looked to him as a native of this colony, and therefore one having a peculiar interest in the matter. He spoke of the committee's action with reference to union in Australia; when union was first proposed there the committee objected. In 1861, however, our ministers in the Colony of Victoria, accomplished a union believing it was for the interests of religion to do so; and the Church at home bade them God speed. In Canada both parties asked the advice of the Colonial Committee, but the committee declined to interfere. When union was about being accomplished he (Mr. Sprott) bearing that some declined to enter it, urged the committee to write or telegraph to Canada counselling delay until such time as all could enter with harmony. He desired the union to be accomplished unanimsously or not at all. His views however were not approved of, and we all knew what had happened since. Better that they had not driven so fast. In Canada he met many people out of union, but they constituted mere fragments of congregations. The Church of Scotland at the time of union expressed a wish that

it should comprehend all. The assembly expressed the hope that all divisions might be healed. He was not here to advise. The Church of Scotland regards all those out of union as equally loyal with those in it. He felt it useless to speak of the lawsuits as to the Temporalities fund, and the many other lawsuits as to church property. It was the duty of the United Church in the interests of righteousness to enquire into these things. At the conference with those out of union held in Toronto, one elder after another from different parts of Canada stood up, and declared how the minority had been spoiled of their churches by the union act. It was different here owing to the cool heads in these parts.

He spoke of the resolution of last Assembly as to grants in aid. It was resolved that the grants to Queen's College and to Halifax Divinity Hall be withdrawn in two years. There was a feeling at home that we had too many colleges. The committee also resolved to withdraw all grants to congregations in the older parts of the Dominion as soon as convenient.

He then proceeded to speak of the State of the Church at home. The Reports given in showed that the various schemes were in a flourishing condition notwithstanding the unparalleled depression. The members of the church increased more rapidly than the general population. Four or five years ago a return was asked, and obtained by the opponents of the Church in the interests of disestablishment when it was found that the adherents of the church constituted the majority of the population. Last year another return was asked for in order to discredit the former one when it was found that an extraordinary increase had taken place in the number of the adherents of the Church.

A great deal had been done for church extension, and the great centres of population were now well in hand. He had no doubt the present agitation for dis