

pleasure in stating that the proceedings have been very harmonious, and that the Union promises to be productive of the best results to the interests of religion in these Lower Provinces.

With warmest gratitude for the many favours which you have conferred on us, and with earnest prayers that the God of all grace may more and more bless your labours for the promotion of his own cause both at home and abroad, we commend you to the keeping and the guidance of the Great Shepherd of the sheep.

Signed in name and by the authority of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces.

JAMES SMITH, D. D., *Moderator.*
P. G. MCGREGOR, *Synod Clerk.*

The Revd. John Bonar, D. D., Convener of the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland.

REVD. AND DEAR SIR,—

Although the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America, omitted at their first session in October last, formally to intimate to the Free Church of Scotland, the Union at that time effected between the Free Church of Nova Scotia and the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, they understand that you have had full information, both of the fact of the Union itself and of the Basis on which it has been consummated. It has given us much pleasure to learn, that both have met with the approval of the Committee of which you are Convener, and that the united body now constituting the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America, may hope for a continuance of the friendly intercourse which you maintained with the Free Church of Nova Scotia, and also of such aid as our circumstances may seem to require, and as your means, amid the many appeals for help which are made to you, may permit you to afford.

As you will see by the accompanying Extract Minute, the Synod have instructed us to communicate with you, respecting the aid which it is hoped you may be prepared still to grant to us. We are hopeful that our own means may enable us now to provide for the ordinary support of the ministry among us, and for the operations of the Home Mission Committee. Our great difficulty is the upholding of our educational institutions, for the training of a native ministry. The very inadequate provision for elementary teaching in our common schools, and the want of a Provincial College for the higher branches of a liberal education, throw a very heavy burden upon us in attempting to prepare students for the work of the ministry. We are not without hope that Dalhousie College in Halifax, at present in abeyance, may be rendered available at no distant period; but in the meantime, we have to supply the want out of our own resources. Each of the two bodies, before the Union, had made some progress in collecting a fund for the support of Professors, yet without having come very near the object aimed at. The munificent bequest of the late Mr. Matheson, who died since the Union, will help us greatly. The full amount of that bequest cannot yet be ascertained. Some portion of it has been already realized, but a considerable time may elapse before all (perhaps about £5,000, currency), can be gathered in. Even in the prospect of this, however, we are in difficulties; and therefore earnestly request that you will continue for this year, the grant both to Professor Lyall and to Mr. McKnight; the latter of whom was raised by the Synod at their late meeting to the status of Professor. We expect that after this year, we shall be able ourselves to provide for the support of Mr. McKnight. Every effort will be made also to relieve you from the burden of Professor Lyall; although we trust that, should our hopes as to an arrangement about Dalhousie College be disappointed or deferred, you may be willing still to help us with respect to him. The arrangement which for the present has removed him to Truro, is but temporary. It is expected that our whole educational establishment will be fixed in Halifax, as soon as the requisite funds can be obtained.

We are, Revd. and Dear Sir, Yours very respectfully.

ANDREW KING, } *Committee*
JAMES ROSS, } *of Synod.*