

2nd. That the Westminster Confession of Faith shall form the subordinate standard of this Church, that the Larger and Shorter Catechisms shall be adopted by the Church, and appointed to be used for the instruction of the people—it being distinctly understood that nothing contained in the aforesaid Confession, or Catechisms, regarding the power and duty of the Civil Magistrate, shall be held to sanction any principles or views inconsistent with full liberty of conscience in matters of religion.

3rd. That the Government and Worship of this Church shall be in accordance with the recognized principles and practice of Presbyterian Churches, as laid down generally in the "Form of Presbyterian Church Government," and in "The Directory for the Public Worship of God."

4th. That the Church while cherishing Christian affection towards the whole Church of God, and desiring to hold fraternal intercourse with it in its several branches, as opportunity offers shall, at the same time, regard itself as being in such Ecclesiastical relations to Churches holding the same doctrine, government, and discipline with itself, as that Ministers, and Probationers from these Churches shall be received into this Church, subject to such negotiations as shall, from time to time, be adopted.

HEADSHIP OF CHRIST.

After due consideration of the authoritative documents of the respective Churches, it was found that not only was there substantial unity already in existence, but that the Church which had been suspected of holding lax views on this vital point of Christian doctrine had issued from its Supreme Court in 1844 a statement thereof much stronger and fuller than any similar statement in any of the published documents of the other Church. It was further found that to this statement Ministers and Probationers were required to conform on licensure and ordination. It was therefore resolved with perfect unanimity that the Joint Committee having heard the minutes of Conference regarding the subject, which have been read, does now express its satisfaction with the unanimity of sentiment which is exhibited in the documents referred to.

STATE GRANTS.

The subject of State Grants to Denominational Colleges was disposed of with like unanimous approval, and the resolution of Conference was adopted by the Joint Committee as its own, viz.: The Committee claims for the respective Churches represented by it, the fullest forbearance as to any difference of opinion which may exist respecting the question of State Grants to Educational Establishments of a Denominational

character, and does not see, in such diversity of sentiment upon a subject on which uniformity of opinion is not enforced within any of the negotiating bodies, anything which need prove a barrier to Union, or disturb the peace of a United Church.

APPOINTMENT OF THEOLOGICAL PROFESSORS.

After lengthened deliberation and a free expression of opinion it was unanimously agreed, "That it is inexpedient for this Committee to pass at present any resolution on the subject."

In like manner the maintenance of the Theological Institutions of the Church formed subject of free and full discussion but no formal resolution was taken.

PUBLIC WORSHIP.

With regard to modes of worship, it was unanimously resolved, that the practice presently followed by congregations, in the matter of worship shall be allowed, and that further action in connection therewith be left to the legislation of the United Church.

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION.

On this subject it was agreed also with perfect unanimity, that the negotiating Churches shall enter into Union with the Theological and Literary Institutions which they now have, and that application be made to Parliament for such legislation as will bring Queen's University and College, Knox College, The Presbyterian College, Montreal, Morrin College and the Theological Hall at Halifax into relations to the United Church similar to those which they now hold to their respective Churches, and to preserve the corporate existence, government, and functions on terms and conditions, like to those under which they now exist, but the United Church shall not be required to elect Trustees for an Arts' Department in any of the Colleges above named.

MINISTERS' WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FUND.

The Joint Committee resolved to recommend that steps be taken at the first meeting of the General Assembly of the United Church, for the equitable establishment and administration of an efficient Fund for the benefit of the Widows and Orphans of Ministers.

RIGHTS OF PROPERTY.

It was agreed that such legislation shall be sought as shall preserve undisturbed all rights of property now belonging to congregations and Corporate Bodies, and at the same time not interfere with freedom of action on the part of congregations in the same locality desirous of uniting, or on the part of Corporate Bodies which may find it to be expedient to discontinue, wholly or partially, their separate existence.