

successively moved. As the discussion proceeded, an unexpected strength of opposition to the scheme appeared, and it soon became apparent that a vote on the approving resolution, as it stood, would be carried by a very slender majority. At this stage substitute resolutions were introduced, proposing to accept the scheme on certain conditions. Judge Dean then withdrew his original motion of approval, and the writer had to let his amendment drop, as it was not strictly an amendment to the substitute then before the Board. Moreover, as it seemed probable there would be a small majority in favor of the principle of Confederation, it was felt to be better that the scheme should be adopted with as many and as radical amendments as possible, and so the substitute resolutions were allowed to pass with but few votes actually against them, though some did not vote at all. I do not remember precisely how many members of the Board were present;—speaking from memory I think about 23 or 24; but I affirm, from personal knowledge, that of those who attended the meeting at least ten were opposed to Confederation, and would have so expressed themselves on a straight vote.

From recent correspondence with those members of whose exact views I had any doubt, I conclude that the present attitude of the 40 members composing the Board is as follows:— About 20 favor some plan of Confederation; 13 or 14 are opposed to the principle; the remainder would prefer to remain as we are, but thinking it impossible to secure sufficient endowment, reluctantly consent to try Confederation as apparently the only alternative. It may be said, therefore, that in regard to the principle involved, the present Board are about equally divided, a fact that of itself should lead us to pause before we cut loose from the traditional policy of fifty years, and commit ourselves to a policy entirely new,—one, moreover, that will require the united and cordial support of the *whole* Church to make it a success.

Nor should it be forgotten that the entire situation is changed. When the Board met to discuss the scheme, it was expected that at least two other Universities—Queen's and Trinity—would be parties to the arrangement. Indeed, we have been repeatedly assured by a prominent advocate of the measure that if the Presbyterians did not confederate we could not.