

nexion with the Scottish branch of their church, the matter was abandoned, it being ruled at the general Synod meeting at Edinburgh that "the majority had no power or right whatever to force the minority to adopt their views." And so in Scotland herself, where the question of Union between the *Free* and the *United Presbyterian* bodies was agitated with the utmost keenness by its advocates for nine long years, the matter was finally abandoned two years ago in consequence of a *small minority* of the Free Church refusing to join with Voluntaries or Dissenters, and threatening, if Union was forced, "to lay legal claim to all the vast property belonging to the whole Free Church of Scotland!" In this case, also, it was ruled that "the majority had no right or power whatever to force their views on a reluctant minority, however small, whose claim to the whole church property the Law would undoubtedly sustain." Had our brethren in Canada only followed these Christian examples of the Old Country I should not to-day have been troubling you with this letter. Surely you will say it is *their* duty likewise to abandon a scheme so opposed by their brethren, and respecting which *not a fourth of the Synod have even expressed an opinion*. But to rush on headlong with their wild union scheme in defiance of all law, canon and ecclesiastical, and trampling on all rights *sacred and civil*, and even on the tenderest national feelings of their countrymen, is what they will find will not be submitted to. No! they will find that the battle has yet to be fought on another soil; that in the same manner as the Free Church ministry acted when union was threatened to be forced upon them, but with much stronger reason as an *Established Church*, will the the minority in the Scotch Church, Canada, (if union is forced) *lay legal claim to all property whatsoever belonging to her in this Dominion, and that before the Highest Tribunal of the Empire!* That your Honors will anticipate the decision which may be expected from that August Body, and refuse to pass an Act so unjust I cannot doubt. Had the "Union Bills" like the "Land Purchase Bills," been to *compel the Church of Scotland to sell her property for equivalent*, even this had been *unjust*. How much more so when their scope is to strip her of her property, whether she will or not, and divide it among traitors and aliens! Certainly if your Government justly rejected even the "Land Purchase Bills" because of their injustice, infinitely more cause have they to reject the "Union," alias, *Church Robbery Bills*, whose scope is to rob and ruin her without mercy, without giving her a cent of compensation!!! That our high-minded and highly-esteemed Governor General will refuse his assent to these unjust Bills—so destructive of the rights of property, I cannot doubt. And even as I love Canada, and her people, and desire their best interests temporal and spiritual, so I oppose this confederacy calling itself "Union," before whose plundering spirit no property she has, Protestant or Catholic, will be safe for a moment, and whose radical principles, tyranny, and illiteracy are not for Canada at all. Canada, as part of a monarchy, and with a beloved Sovereign, must have nothing to do with the treacherous and disloyal; but uphold only what is loyal and true. Canada must not be imposed upon by a self-constituted schismatical sect which is not a church at all—by a thing not even yet come into existence, and which will have no authority for its existence. She must have what will truly benefit her; not the teaching of half-taught clerics, but that of educated ministers; not a false gilding, but the pure gold; not a spurious Presbyterianism, but the real Church of Scotland. That by your decision—a decision in accordance with that given at first by the Legislative Committee at Quebec—Canada will do herself the honor of defending right against wrong; of repelling our aggressors and shielding her loyal Church of Scotland, so long her benefactor, so true to her best interests, true to her people, true to her Government, and true to her Queen there can be no doubt.

Trusting, Gentlemen, that you will excuse the liberty I take in addressing you,

I have the honor to be

Yours with profound respect,

A FRIEND OF THE KIRK.

HAMILTON, CANADA WEST,
March, 1875.