

No principle was at stake ; no question now of tariff or possible financial disturbance; and evidently the work of establishing the ordinances of religion over half a continent could be done better by united action than by continued dissipation of our feeble resources. But these considerations availed nothing against timidity and the memories of old feuds, and we had either to abandon the proposed union, or to see our Synod broken into two and to part from old friends and fellow-workers, some of whom regarded us as traitors to them and to our past. Sorrowfully we chose the latter alternative, the hours of decision being perhaps the bitterest some of us ever knew. In this case, too, time has vindicated the principle of union. There are no anti-confederates to-day, though, in Nova Scotia at any rate, it was the popular creed in the sixties. Imperial union was scoffed at then, every where. It was "a fad," and its advocates dreamers or "a lawn tennis party." Now every one in Great Britain and in all "the British Dominions beyond the seas" is an imperialist of some kind. The most statesman-like words on the subject have been uttered by the Premier of Canada. So with the union of the four churches. We have celebrated our Silver Jubilee, and the only notes heard were of thanksgiving, congratulation, and a larger hope. But, if it was so difficult to effect the union of churches having a common ancestry and history, the same confession of faith, the same discipline, rules and ritual, how long will it take to effect the union of Christendom, or to create an organized church of Canada! We must have patience, patience, patience, always of course combined with faith. The church of Canada will come. In the things of the spirit, however, a thousand years are as one day but, also, in the fullness of time, one day is as a thousand years. Time has no place in the vision of the Eternal. All that we have a right to ask for now are non-interference with each other's work, mutual and cordial recognition and co-operation wherever practicable. Along these lines resistance will be least and eventually union will come, and in its great day our descendents will marvel that their fathers were so wedded to prejudices, so blind to the perspective of truth, and so deaf to the command of their Lord.