

ends of ecclesiastical association. And considering that, in these circumstances, continuance in a state of separation would be sinful, and Union becomes their bounden duty, and that a basis of Union has been prepared, deliberately discussed, and cordially sanctioned by both Synods; and that by the good hand of their God upon them, they have completed all other preparatory arrangements, this Synod do now, with fervent gratitude to God for his past goodness to the Relief Church, and for having led them and their brethren of the Secession Synod thus far, and in humble dependence on his gracious blessing in the solemn and interesting step they are about to take, and with earnest prayer that he would pour down the rich influences of his Spirit on the United Churches, and would enable their ministers, elders, and people, to improve the privileges they enjoy, and discharge the obligations devolving on them—Resolve, and hereby record their Resolution, forthwith to repair, as a constituted Synod to Tanfield Hall, Canonmills, in order that they may there, as arranged, unite with their brethren of the Secession, and from one Synod, to be known by a name hereafter to be fixed, and may henceforth walk together in the fear of God, and in the comforts of the Holy Ghost, striving for the faith of the Gospel, for the purity of divine ordinances, and for the enlargement of the Church of Christ. And this Synod declare, that the Synod of the United Church, shall be considered identical with this Relief Synod, and shall be entitled to, and vested in all the authority, rights, and benefits to which it is now, or may become entitled, and that each of the Congregations under its inspection, whether they shall adopt a name to be hereafter fixed, or shall retain as they shall be permitted to do, if they shall deem it proper, the name by which they have hitherto been designated, shall not be held, though coming in consequence of this Union, under the inspection of the Synod of the United Church, as in any respect changing their ecclesiastical connection, or affecting any of their civil rights.”

At the call of the junior Moderator, the Rev. John Newlands of the Secession Synod, the last minute adopted by that body, and prepared with a view to the Union, was read by the clerk, the Rev. David Ronald, in the same terms, only with the necessary changes on the names and places.

The Articles of the basis, which we formerly introduced, were now read, whilst the members of both Courts all stood, assenting to them in solemn silence. After this the interest of the meeting was increased by the Senior moderator, the Rev. Mr. Auld, saying according to previous arrangement: “As Moderator of the Relief Synod, I hereby, in terms of the resolution of that Synod, which has been read, declare that the Relief Synod is henceforth one with the Synod of the Secession Church, and that the United Synod shall be held identical with the Relief Synod, and shall be entitled to all its authority, rights, and privileges.” The same declaration, only changing the names, was made by Mr. Newlands as Moderator of the Secession Synod. Here the interest of the assembly was further heightened by the Moderators giving to each other the right hand of fellowship,—when their example was immediately followed by the other members of the Synods now united doing the same to those within their reach; and the audience, it is said, expressed their delighted