

as usual, abandoned itself to the free interchange of colloquial congratulations, but in a very few minutes the hum of voices was hushed as Dr. Topp advanced to the chair, and proceeded with characteristic grace and suavity to acknowledge his sense of the compliment which had been paid him by his peers, in the bestowment of the highest honour which it was in the power of the house to confer upon him. The Moderator's address, which was couched in very happy terms, referred to the largeness of the Assembly, as a feature of it having few parallels in the history of Presbyterian Churches, and which was due to the exceptional circumstances in which it was found: and also, to its peculiar character as being composed of different bodies, hitherto acting separately. With regard to the different branches of the Presbyterian family, he said:—

"Every one who is accustomed to observe what is going on around him must be aware that the spirit of union largely predominates. Since the union of our scattered forces in Canada, negotiations for union between two of the sister Churches in England have been completed, and the union is fixed to take place on Tuesday first, and thus there will be a united Presbyterian Church rising up, phoenix-like, from the ashes of a decayed and withered branch of the beginning of this century, to burn with brighter flame and to shed a clearer and more attractive light for the gathering in of those in that land who, in the midst of Romanizing tendencies, are in love with the simple Gospel, and with Him who is the Author of that Gospel. Then, in Scotland, the Free Church and the Reformed Presbyterian Church have just united, a harbinger we trust of a larger union: and, from the proceedings in Brooklyn, you observe that there is a prospect of the North and the South shaking hands over the dead issues of the past, and, unitedly as one noble phalanx, forming an attraction for the other branches of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. I hope the day is not far distant when, with a united Presbyterianism in Scotland, and in England, and in Ireland, there will be a federation of these Churches, as the earnest of an œcumenical council, a great alliance of Presbyterians in all parts of the world, for Presbyterianism is elastic enough to accommodate itself, without compromise of principle, to every clime and to every race, like that Gospel which it holds forth as the source of life

and salvation to all nations. The Assembly has a peculiar character in so far as it is the first Assembly for business. The last, was such that little more could be done than merely consummating the union; but now we proceed to build upon the foundation which has been laid, to avail ourselves by the blessing of God of the vantage ground which God in His providence has given us for the vigorous prosecution of His work in the land; and this is to be done by the Presbyterian Church in Canada all the more because of this great difference, that the territory over which it extends is vastly increased, and the claims of home missionary operations are proportionately greater. To this work I believe the Assembly will address itself with earnestness, with calm judgment, and with devotedness and zeal, remembering that "except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city the watchman waketh in vain," and, in dependence on this truth, seeking from Him the wisdom that cometh above, and that is profitable to direct.

Fathers and Brethren,—As we meet together from year to year in our Supreme Courts, we are reminded of the necessity of working while it is called to-day, for the night cometh when no man can work. Since the negotiations for union commenced, three respected elders who were members of the Union Committee have been called away, viz:—Wm. McDougall, of Lindsay; Mr. Craig, M. P. of Cornwall; and the other week, Hon. John Holmes, of Nova Scotia; and lately Mr. Gordon, M. P., a devoted friend of foreign missions, and a zealous defender of the sanctity of the Sabbath, has been suddenly removed by death. Among the ministers of the Church several have been called away who stood high in the esteem of their brethren and in the service of the Church. Of these, I take the liberty of mentioning the Rev. Dr. Jennings, who for thirty-seven years has presided with ability and zeal over the same congregation in Toronto, who took a deep interest in educational matters and generally in the affairs of the Church; the Rev. Mr. Buchan, of Stirling, and the Rev. Mr. Macintosh, of Amherst Island, and the Rev. Mr. Mackay, of Huron, each well advanced in life, and who had devotedly served the Lord; others were young comparatively in years, but laborious and faithful men, who had earned a good report, the Rev. Mr. Travers, of Brockville; the Rev. Mr. Thomson, of Erin, and the Rev. Mr. Mackenzie, of Almonte, so successful in evangelistic efforts and in his ministry generally. Not long ago a very talented young minister, who had just passed through his studies with