

ter. We are children of a national Church, and are therefore bound to diffuse the blessings of the Church as widely as possible over the whole of this new land. We cannot be indifferent to this duty without being false to our name. And the way to do this is not by mean and unworthy attempts at proselytising. No; the first step is an honest and honorable alliance with our separated brethren. By that step we rise from being one-thirtieth to be one-seventh of the population. That is the duty that lies nearest us. Let us do that, and God will show us what step we should take next.

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### PROTESTANT UNIONS IN THE DOMINION.

The three great Protestant Denominations in the Dominion are the Episcopal, the Methodist, and the Presbyterian. Each of these includes more than half a million of the population, but the three would need to unite in order to present a front equal in point of numbers to the Roman Catholics. Not one of the three, however, has yet constituted itself into a united Canadian Church, though all are now pointing in that direction, and from present signs it is difficult to predict which shall have the honor of showing the others the way. The Episcopalians have chiefly technical difficulties to contend with, and these cannot delay an union long. At present they have three Synods; one in Nova Scotia, from which two or three important Low Church congregations stand aloof; one in New Brunswick; and one in old Canada. The symptoms warrant us in believing that in two or three years, at farthest, there will be only one Episcopal Body in our Dominion. No man opposes union, so far as known to us, either among the clergy or laity.

The prospects of the Wesleyans are equally good, if not better. They are

preparing for a grand union of the original and the New Connexion Methodists into one Canadian Church, that will begin its history with 1000 ministers and nearly 600,000 people. Last summer all their Conferences voted in favour of the proposal, and it was then sent down—not to the whole body of the people, be it noted—but to the people represented in their Quarterly Meetings, and these are now voting overwhelmingly in favour of it, some that are unfavourable declaring that, though now opposing, they will give in their concurrence, if it is carried. The probability therefore is, that this union can be effected next summer, and then, says the *Provincia! Wesleyan*, “Methodism will enter upon a great organization and a yet more hopeful destiny within this Dominion. Each of the churches now coming into Union has shown its ability to exist and prosper of itself. Neither is a suppliant for aid, preferring absorption to extinction. Youthful and vigorous, if not stalwart sons of the same mother, they resolve to form a partnership. Where there is rough work to be done, their united energies will be something difficult to withstand. Their combined wisdom will insure great prudence; their formidable strength conciliate many enemies.”

How exactly suited to our circumstances are these words! Is it not a spirit-stirring sight, this spectacle of the great English-speaking Churches all evidently animated by one spirit, each repairing the old breaches, and building up the walls of its Zion. We have been told that Canada is too big a country for one Presb<sub>y</sub>terian Church. Is our system then inferior to Epis<sub>o</sub>pacy and Methodism?

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