

Union; to thank God for the comfortable way in which it has been completed; to hold fast by the grand principles embraced in it; and to show by vigorous action in the way of missions at home and abroad, that "union is strength;" and may the blessing of Him who "gathers the scattered tribe of Israel into one" rest upon us.

THE UNION AND THE DUTIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH.

We believe that no event ever occurred in this Province of more delightful character or of happier augury to the cause of Christ than that which was witnessed at Montreal on Thursday the 6th ultimo, viz.: the union of the Presbyterian Church and the United Presbyterian Church of Canada. Of aught more becoming Christian men our annals tell not. Notwithstanding the known and acknowledged diversity of sentiment that obtains among the brethren on some matters of comparatively minor importance, no union could be more real, more unconstrained, amicable and cordial. With but few exceptions there was not only the absence of every thing akin to grudge on either part, but there were unequivocal manifestations of gladness when the solemn act of union was completed and announced. It was indeed a grateful sight to see the indubitable indices of Christian brotherhood exhibited by those who had hitherto walked and worked apart. Satisfaction and joy lighted up the features of the intermingled brethren, and hand grasped hand in cordial grip, and sententious congratulations were exchanged that told of amity worthy of the household of faith. Most manifest it was that all were "of one heart" and sufficiently "of one mind" to allow sanctified affection its full swing. Indeed we are strongly inclined to think that there was as much sameness of sentiment as is ever likely to characterise an equal number of Christian men while in this nether and cloudy region. When men's hearts are led captive by the love of Christ, their opinions on all vital matters cannot by possibility long or strongly conflict. Love, especially Christian love, has a wonderful power of assimilating sentiments. Lack of love to Christ and to one another for Christ's sake, has more to do with the doctrinal and practical antagonism that prevails among His professed disciples than they themselves seem to be aware of. Surely the Spirit of God, by His gracious influence on the hearts of Christ's divided disciples, has brought about this delightful union. Is it not at once a proof and a fruit of the possession of that love that is so essential as to constitute the test of discipleship? Verily, the Lord has visited His people, and begun to build up Jerusalem. He has repaired one breach, to the glory of His great name and to the gladness of not a few of His people.

Now that the union is consummated, the first imperative duty of all concerned is *gratitude* to God for the grace bestowed,—for allay-