

hope in our Lord Jesus Christ," and that in these ways you are "making sure your election of God."

And now, let me bring these imperfect remarks to a close. I rejoice in this day's work; rejoice in the fact that the reproach of an absolutely baseless sectarianism has begun to be rolled away from this noble county. I rejoice that that beginning has been made in a district which alike for my father's sake and my own, I have reason to love so well. I rejoice in the example you have set, and in those over-rulings of Providence which have rendered its setting possible. I rejoice yet more in the thought of the source to which, without doubt, your union is to be traced, that Gracious Spirit who sheds abroad the love of Christ in the hearts of His willing subjects. I rejoice in anticipating the blessed influences which must surely flow from what you have this day done, and in the blessed results which will surely be manifested among you, as the days roll on. "The generations that are to be shall bless and magnify the Lord." A hindrance has been removed out of the way of the progress of pure religion and undefiled in your midst. No more will the "sour grapes eaten by the fathers, set the teeth of your children on edge." You have "honoured Christ, and he will honour you." You have evinced that faith in Him has verily a power to "cast down and to raise up," to overcome evil and to establish the good. The revival of religion among you has borne fruits; it has manifested its genuineness. It was no mere wild-fire of excitement, such as in some other places, led the hearers thereof to "look for much and it brought forth little." It has evinced itself in practical consequences. The step which the Lord has led you to take is, I firmly believe, the harbinger of the day, when the union effected among the Presbyterians of this great Dominion shall be complete, presenting an unbroken front from sea to sea, the most honoured, we trust, of the churches of Christ, the most determined and sleeplessly vigilant foe of Popery on the one hand, and of Infidelity on the other—"a pillar and ground of truth."