

our voluntary friends of what we mean by the magistrate, in his official capacity, having regard to the revealed Word of God. No man, and no set of men, could, we are persuaded, so profane God's holy name as our Cabinet have done had they first considered, "What doth God require of us?" If first they had asked, not "does the letter of the law cover our transaction?" but "does the Word of God approve or condemn it?" they would, we are persuaded, have hesitated ere they trifled with the solemnity of an oath. We fear the "kingdoms of the world and the glory of them" have been too strong a temptation for their religious virtue to withstand—that in one of the three great forms in which the tempter is ever seeking to seduce men to dishonor God our rulers have been tempted, and have fallen. We can suppose that by some of their number the act has been inconsiderately done under the excitement of political events and partisan feelings. If so, we trust that on reflection they will repent, and that we may witness the edifying spectacle of their public confession of sin. We wish we could entertain such a hope. We fear that such an act of moral courage is not to be expected from our rulers. Let us hope that the nation will not be corrupted by their example, and that amongst the people the time may be far distant when the solemnity of oaths will be tampered with. Reverence for the thrice-hallowed name of God is the bulwark of justice; let this once be broken down, and our national glory as a God-fearing people will be destroyed. The example which has been set before us in our high places may, if it be not rebuked, have a most pernicious influence on the country; we cannot therefore but wish that God would, in some signal way in his providence, stamp this act of impiety with his displeasure. We ask not for judgment but for rebuke that our rulers may know themselves to be but men, and be led to acknowledge that the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth in the world.

PROSPECTS OF PRESBYTERIAN UNION.

PRESENT ASPECT OF THE SUBJECT—REPLY TO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE—
BASIS OF UNION FRAMED.

A very moderate knowledge of history and of human nature suffices to tell us that divisions are more easily effected than unions. Accordingly, bent though we are on a union of the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the United Presbyterian Church, we are not surprised at any hesitation, or irritated by any delay. In the advocacy of the object we do not weary; of its happy accomplishment we in no wise despair. We do not overlook the fact, that on both sides a few men are found, and some of them men of weight and experience, who contemplate a union with a degree of reluctance and suspicion. However few these anti-unionists may be, we would respect their conscientious doubts and even their honest prejudices. Let difficulties be stated, and if possible solved, in frank, friendly, and patient discussion. Meantime, the cause of union so far from being checked or injured, gains strength every day, and its friends may well thank God and take courage.

In order to a successful issue of the pending negotiations, however, all parties concerned must combine to frown upon all needless revival of old controversies, and especially on all unfair statements or misrepresentations of the views and