

CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE FREE PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU AND THE PRESBYTERY OF PICTOU IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVA SCOTIA.—We are happy to record what we hope will only be the first of a series of meetings, tending to promote brotherly feeling between the members of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches in this Province, and to hasten on that amalgamation of the two bodies which is not far distant. The two Presbyteries of Pictou met, as agreed on, in Pictou, on Wednesday, 12th inst. After the first sederunt of each Presbytery had been spent in transacting its ordinary business, they both met together in Knox's Church, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Proceedings having been opened with prayer the Revs. D. B. Blair and George Patterson made explanations regarding the circumstances in which this meeting was called, and the objects in view. In consequence of the Synod's Committees on Co-operation being so widely scattered, it had been found impossible to get a meeting hitherto, since the meeting of Synod. It had occurred to some that if there could be no general movement of this nature, there might be local movements, which would tend to promote the same object—that the meeting together of the members of the two Presbyteries would tend to promote personal good feelings and brotherly love, and there were local matters in which both were interested upon which we might consult.

Mr Blair, who was the first speaker, introduced the subject of Romanism and suggested that it should be first considered. He described forcibly the efforts, which that Church is putting forth throughout the world, and compared the manner in which she is proceeding with Scripture prophecy. There she was described as the harlot, (emblem of a false Church.) "riding upon the beast," emblem of tyrannical civil government.—There the kings of the earth were represented as "committing fornication with her," pointing out the unholy alliances between Rome and politicians. These things we see everywhere exemplified in the present day. The Church of Rome is extending her influence, not so much by her missionaries propagating the faith, (though her efforts in this way are not to be despised,) but by her influence with civil rulers—in despotic countries backing up the rulers in return for concessi-

ons to the Church, and in free countries securing her influence by holding the balance of power between parties. Mr Blair concluded by urging the propriety of forming a Branch Protestant Alliance.

He was followed in succession by most of the members of both Presbyteries, but we cannot even attempt to give an outline of their addresses. They evinced the utmost harmony of view and feeling. Each felt that in the present day Rome was making a desperate struggle to reclaim her lost ground—that her influence was being felt among ourselves—that Rome everywhere was distinguished by her enmity to the Bible, and to education—that she endeavoured to advance her power by making tools of our public men, at one time, as Mr Munro expressed it, riding a Liberal horse, as she now does in Prince Edward Island, and at another time, as in this Province, after riding the Liberal horse, getting off it to mount the Conservative—and that it became all Protestants to watch well a power in their midst, which is the deadliest foe of civil and religious liberty. An opinion was generally expressed favorable to the formation of a Protestant Alliance.

The Conference adjourned to take tea together, and we need not say that over "the cup which cheers but not inebriates" there was the same harmony as in the other proceedings.

After the adjournment the Conference resumed consideration of the subject of Romanism, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That this Conference approve of the Protestant Alliance recently formed in Halifax, and consider that the present aspects of Popery call for the formation of Branches throughout the country."

It was also agreed to request other Protestant ministers and laymen to meet in Knox's Church, New Glasgow, on Tuesday, 1st June, at 11 o'clock, for the purpose of deciding upon and adopting such measures, as may be deemed advisable for that purpose.

The Conference then took up the subject of union between the two bodies of which they form a part. The basis of union recently agreed on by the Committees of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches in Canada was read, and general approval expressed of it, but some members of Conference preferred the basis agreed upon some years ago by a Committee of the two Synods in