

wardness to send forth others for a like honorable preparation, and a like abundant usefulness in the most needy part of the vineyard. Sent forth with much expectations and many prayers, watched over earnestly, looked for with almost impatient eagerness, and now returned with much honor and promise, may your missionaries be led forth in the love of their God and Saviour, and in the power of his most Holy Spirit, and be ever graciously enabled to give full and most acceptable proof of their ministry, and spend lives among you of holy teaching and example in all their ways.

I am, &c.,  
N. S. B.

#### BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.

We learn with much pleasure, that a Botanical Society has been organized in Kingston, chiefly through the exertions of Professor Lawson of Queen's College. The preliminary meeting was a most promising and successful one; appropriate and able addresses having been delivered by Principal Leitch, Professor Lawson and other gentlemen. The speech of Dr. Lawson is a most important and valuable one, replete not only with information on the interesting subject of Botany, but with the large practical experience, strong sense and enthusiasm which have long gained for him a distinguished position as a botanist. We have little doubt that the influence of his name and the energy of his character, will give the society a good start as well as maintain for it a high rank amidst kindred associations on this side the Atlantic. The field is large and much of it untouched. If the flora of Canada has been but imperfectly investigated, that of Nova Scotia, in a scientific sense can scarcely be said to be touched. Titus Smith did something to classify what have been called the wild flowers of Nova Scotia, but though the results of the labors of the philosopher of the Dutch village were most encouraging he has found no successor. Natural history is a subject all but unknown in our schools, and scarcely recognized in our colleges, and we trust, that the Botanical Society of Canada will do much to turn the attention of the student of nature to this charming and elegant study. We only wish we were near enough to enable us to hear its papers and entitle us to membership. The state of ignorance on this and kindred subjects is not creditable to us as a people. It is not so in other countries. We recollect once asking a common laborer, a Scotchman, who was working in our garden, the name of a particular flower, pointing to it, when he told us the botanical name was *Sanguisorba Medea*. We had the curiosity to ask this russet naturalist where he acquired his scientific information, and he told us that he worked a summer in the garden of the

Rev. Dr. S.—in Scotland, and his lady taught him the botanical name both genus and species of every plant in the garden. It is thus that knowledge among the higher or educated classes finds its way downward, and indeed in every direction, refines and elevates the mind, giving us new and undreamed of pleasures. We wish every success to this young institution.

#### UNION OF PRESBYTERIANS IN CANADA.

We observe from the Presbyterian and the Ecclesiastical Record, that the meeting of the Committee of the three Presbyterian Bodies on union, took place at Toronto. Nothing was done beyond a friendly conversation on the subject. Opinions were freely interchanged, difficulties discussed, hopes expressed, all in a friendly and brotherly spirit. The Record, the organ of the Free Church, anticipates the greatest stumbling block will be the Clergy Reserve Fund of the Kirk of Scotland, but trusts that in time even that will be got over. For our own part, we fear there are other and greater difficulties—essential difficulties of principle—but it is most gratifying at least to find the Christian and affectionate spirit which seems to animate the leading men of all the three bodies towards each other. This is in itself a great and desirable object to be gained. We observe that the Duke of Argyle in a touching and manly letter referring to the loss and the labors of that true Christian hero, Dr. Robertson, alludes to the prospect of a re-union of all Presbyterian bodies—but not by a submerging of principles, which could only produce confusion, but by practicing and imitating the large hearted and unwearied Christian benevolence, the broad and deep affection, the undoubting faith, and unswerving and disinterested labors of this great and good man. A union in name is nothing, but such a union as the noble Duke contemplates would be one of the greatest Christian triumphs of the nineteenth century. Many of the causes which drove conscientious men from the pale of the Church of Scotland no longer exist—the remnants of the principal one—patronage are all but gone; men like Dr. Robertson, are spreading themselves over her fair surface—and by their lofty character, their illustrious names, and devoted labors inviting the descendants of her strayed children as to a fold which is pure and lovely—and altogether honorable. Oh what a memorable day this would be in the Christian world, were three thousand churches in Scotland once more to acknowledge one bond and one brotherhood, with as many churches founded and endowed by the Christian exertions of many Robertsons and the Christian liberality of a Lovinn and warm-hearted people. This is the union for which we long and pray—but how unlike that to which we are invited here, which merely asks us to join, every one holding Establishment or voluntary principles—main-