

Moved by John Michael, seconded by John Hepburn, and *Resolved*,—

6. That the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to the editors of the *Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record*, *Canadian United Presbyterian Magazine*, *Montreal Witness*, and *Globe* newspapers, with a request that they publish the same.

JAMES BREBNER, Chairman.

East Whitby, Feb. 22, 1859.

JOHN RATCLIFF, Secertary.

#### LAKE SHORE.

*RESOLUTIONS passed by the U. P. Congregation, in favour of Union between the Free and the U. P. Churches:*

- (1.) We deeply deplore the sectarian divisions among Christians who are nevertheless one in principle, one in life, one in destiny.
- (2.) We deeply deplore that these unhappy divisions in the church do, in too many cases, cripple her energies, circumscribe her sphere of action, waste her men, squander her funds, create animosities by religious strife, or excite jealousies by officious zeal in beating up for members and adherents.
- (3.) We deeply deplore that from the crowded occupation of many districts in the Province by religious sects, the church is to a great extent diminished in her moral influence and discipline, in her attractive power and pecuniary resources, inasmuch as each congregation is necessarily a weak and struggling cause; and from its weakness and struggles to maintain itself in existence, people stand aloof from it instead of attaching themselves to it, as they would do, were it strong and prosperous;—and thus it has to pay court for public favour and countenance, instead of demanding them from higher principles—has to be subservient, instead of being authoritative in its moral tone—has to pass over or wink at delinquencies, instead of exercising discipline therein—and has to be content with anything that may be given, instead of receiving an adequate sum for the vigorous support of gospel ordinances.
- (4.) From these and similar reasons, as well as from “love” to the “brotherhood,” we most cordially desire and pray for a speedy union of the Free Church and U. P. Church, on a basis which evinces mutual confidence, the one body in the other; which acknowledges the respective differences of both bodies on the power of the civil magistrate in matters of religion, and enjoins mutual forbearance thereon.
- (5.) We resolve to use all possible means for the speedy accomplishment of this union so much to be desired for the common cause of religion; inasmuch as were the union effected, many stations which, in the present divided state of things cannot secure the constant dispensation of religious ordinances, would be able to do so without delay—many congregations which are weak from the same cause would become strong—the boundaries of the church would be extended into new regions by a wise distribution and application of men and funds, which from the present divided state of things are in a great measure thrown away—and the purity of the church would be promoted, as her hands would be strengthened in the exercise of discipline.
- (6.) We rejoice in the movements made in this most important matter by congregations in both bodies, and we resolve to publish these Resolutions with a view to strengthen their hands, and to provoke others to do the same, that an effectual influence may be brought to bear on the members of both Synods, that none of them may, from biases, or prejudices, or refinements, or narrow-mindedness, dare retard or put a stop to the progress of the union among the people of God.
- (7.) We resolve that a Committee be appointed consisting of Messrs. Grierson and Telford, to draw up a Petition based upon the above Resolutions, and to lay it before the Session, that it may in regular order be transmitted to the Synod at its meeting in Toronto, June 13th, 1859.

DAVID ARMSTRONG, Chairman.