

European magistrate, for protection and redress, *but to the Christian missionary*, and in many instances the missionary has stood between them and the scoundrel native assessors. One of the Baptist missionaries, the Rev. Geo. Kerry, has done a great work in exposing in the public prints the shameful evils attendant upon direct taxation among a peasantry like that of Bengal. It is a fact, the significance of which readers will not fail to note, that the poor "dumb-driven cattle," the ryots, crowd to the missionary as the only one whose ear he knows will be open to the story of his wrongs. The bitterness of the Anglo-Indian and the native press against the Secretary of State for India is almost inconceivable; and there can be no doubt but he is largely responsible for the mutterings of mutiny that come occasionally to our ears. The great danger is that the spirit of disaffection may sweep on like a flood as it did in 1857, and baffle all calculation. Asiatics cannot be argued about in the same way as Europeans; they are capable of a marvellous fidelity, and they are also capable of the most wonderful fickleness and caprice. A single hour, or what to us would appear a trifle unworthy of notice, may convert the faithful servant into the vengeful murderer. Thus disaffection may spread, as we have been so terribly taught, like an epidemic. We formerly explained the sudden defection of regiments during the mutiny, immediately after vows and protestations of faithfulness, to deep cunning and duplicity; but now it is more generally ascribed to mere caprice. The *idea* of mutiny would seize upon them and spread from rank to rank with lightning speed; the officers and women would be murdered, and the regiment committed to the evil course with all the haste with which men unaccustomed to reflection are wont to act. Hence the constant state of uncertainty in which we are kept. And it will continue to be so till education teaches them to supplant impulse with reflection, and to act from recognised and calculable motives; and when that time comes, we may pack up and be off, for our work will be done. The time will not come till the nation has learned to place the Rock, even Christ, at its centre, to give stability and strength to it; and when He is there, we may pass away, or remain only as friends, and not as conquerors.

C. M. G.

### CONFERENCE ON UNION AT MONTREAL.

WE place before our readers the minute of the last meeting of the delegates on Union, as it contains the basis proposed, and that which all agreed to recommend to their respective churches when met in Synod next Spring. We may give the rest of the minutes when an attested copy has been supplied to the Convener of our Committee. In the meantime, it is well that our readers should see by itself the broad and simple basis that is proposed. Other matters engaged the attention of the Conference, but they were of minor importance, and, besides, the conclusions on them cannot be regarded as final:—

"At Montreal, and within St. Paul's Church there, at 5 o'clock, 30th Sept., 1870. The joint Committee met, after adjournment, and was constituted with prayer by the Chairman.

"Sederunt—Rev. Dr. Cook, Rev. Principal Snodgrass, D.D., Hon. Alexander Morris, Mr. Croil, Mr. Sheriff McDougall, Rev. Dr. Taylor, Rev. Dr. Topp, Rev. Robert Ure, Hon. John McMurrich, Mr. David McKay, Mr. Thomas McRae, Rev. Allan Pollok, Rev. G. M. Grant, Rev. Donald McRae, Hon. John Robertson, Hon. John Holmes, Mr. James J. Bremner, Rev. Dr. Bayne, Rev. James Bennet, Rev. G. Christie, Mr. Henry Webster and Mr. David Laird.

"The Rev. Dr. Cook, Chairman, the Rev. Dr. Topp, Secretary.

"The minutes of the former meetings were read and sustained.

"The members of this Committee, in bringing their deliberations to a close, desire to record their great satisfaction at the entire harmony of sentiment