

of the report, renew the declaration of unabated interest in all that concerns the spiritual welfare of Scottish Presbyterians throughout the colonies, and, in particular, encourage the committee to follow up the advantageous opening in Fiji, and approve of the provisional arrangement for the supply of the Mauritius; the Assembly cordially welcome the deputies from Australia and Canada, thank them for the interesting information they have imparted and the assurance they have given of the continued respect and affection for the Church of Scotland entertained by the brethren in those colonies, and in return reaffirm their resolution to cultivate friendly relations and co-operate with the Presbyterian Churches in these as in all other colonies who are willing to work with them; the Assembly have heard with interest that the union of Presbyterians in Canada has at length taken place, the terms on which this union has been effected having been brought under consideration of last Assembly, and that Assembly having declared that there was nothing in those terms to prevent the Assembly from wishing God-speed in their future labours to brethren who proposed to accept union on that basis, or from co-operating with them in any way that might be found possible in the new state of things; the Assembly resolve to record and convey to the brethren in the United Church of the Dominion an expression of their earnest prayer that God may be pleased to hallow and bless the union, and make it a means of promoting peace as well as all the other interests of religion; the Assembly at the same time regret to learn that the threatened division in the Canadian Synod, of which intimation was given to last Assembly, has to some extent become a reality; as to different views of duty in regard to accepting or rejecting the union, the Assembly, like all former Assemblies, express no opin-

ion, but being persuaded that those brethren who have declined to enter the United Church, not less than those who have accepted the union, have acted under a strict sense of duty, the Assembly assure them of their continued regard and desire for their prosperity and usefulness; and while the Assembly will not cease to pray and use such means as may be within their power, and entreat their brethren in Canada to unite in the same prayer and efforts, that all heats may be allayed, and any remaining division may be healed, they will cordially continue to co-operate in any possible way with both parties in promoting the religious interests of their colonial brethren; the Assembly having learned from the deputies that an impression exists in Canada that the Church of Scotland regards the action of these connected with her in Canada in forming the union now consummated as an indication of disloyalty to the parent Church, assure the deputies that they entertain no such idea, but, on the contrary, give full credit to the representations they have received from the brethren on that subject.

I may state that the closing sentence was evidently introduced after a good deal of pressure brought to bear upon the framer of the deliverance by Mr. Grant and Dr. Jenkins. As Mr. Muir was willing to accept the proposed deliverance, it was allowed to become the finding of the House. I should add, however, that one or two members of Assembly who ventured to hint that the minority should be discountenanced instead of encouraged, were very promptly put down, and made to feel that the Assembly would entertain no such proposal, but was desirous to recognize and retain under its special care any ministers and congregations who chose, and as long as they chose. to remain in connection with the Church of Scotland, and the understanding of the Assembly clearly was that such ministers and