

churchmen and dissenters, and by none more than by the members of the United Associate Synod, who felt that a blow was aimed at them as well as their brethren of the Relief, as being their condutors, and to some extent their leaders, in the Voluntary Controversy. A more cordial feeling was thereby excited between the churches, as is indicated in the following communication addressed by the Secession to the Relief Synod upon the occasion. "The attention of Synod having been called to the interests of the Relief Synod, as involved in the case before the civil courts respecting the Campbelton Church, concerning which the Relief Synod had sent documents for the perusal of members of this Synod,—this Synod agree to express sympathy with our brethren of the Relief Synod in this matter, and approbation of their struggles for maintaining the independence of their ecclesiastical courts."

But the Campbelton case served to promote the Union in a still more powerful and direct manner, than by merely awakening sympathy and exciting regard. It led Dr. Struthers to write the History of the Relief Church, and thereby to supply a *desideratum* which had been felt by some of the most candid and charitable among the Seceders, who were anxious for more authoritative documentary evidence than they had been able to procure, to confirm the statements of the promoters of the Union, respecting the principles and practices of the Relief Church. The knowledge thence acquired proved of much practical use when the union was drawing towards its consummation.

We know nothing of the general business of the Relief Synod after this till the time of the union, some years afterwards. The following, however, is an account of the closing scene of this Synod in its separate state, and it is deeply interesting. It is of date 13th May, 1847. "After the Relief Synod met on Thursday forenoon, it was engaged for a short time dispatching some remaining business. When the appointed time for leaving James-Place Church had nearly arrived, Mr. Symington proposed, "That though the Court was not now to close, seeing that it was in a body, and in a Synodical capacity, they were to proceed to the place of meeting, yet, in the solemn and interesting circumstances in which they were placed, it would be highly proper that one of the senior members of Synod should offer up a prayer to God." Mr. McNaughton, Milngavie, having been called on by the Moderator, then offered up a very solemn and appropriate prayer, reviewing God's goodness to the Relief Church as a separate body, acknowledging its short-comings and sins, imploring divine forgiveness in respect of these, and supplicating the blessing of Heaven on the union to which they were about to proceed. The solemnity which pervaded the meeting during the presentation of this the last prayer of the Relief Synod in its separate capacity, and the deep and sacred feelings which it awakened, will, we are persuaded, be long remembered by all who had the privilege to be present.*

(To be continued.)

Reviews of Books.

'AZUBA; or, the Forsaken Land: a description of a recent visit to Palestine. BY THE REV. W. RITCHIE, *Berwick-on-Tweed, Author of Lectures on Baptism.*—Small 8vo., pp. 514; Edinburgh, Johnston & Hunter, 1856.

The handsome and interesting volume before us is the production of a Minister of the U. P. Church who lately made a tour in the Holy Land.