

entertain the subject of a more intimate union between the two bodies.

On motion of Rev Mr Sedgewick the Synod agreed to spend Friday evening in a free conference between brethren, and that the Synod should resolve itself into a committee of the whole house for that purpose.

The remainder of the sederunt was spent in preparation of Rules of Procedure.

EVENING OF WEDNESDAY.—When the Synod was opened, a Commission, signed William Duff Clerk of Free Church Synod, was laid on the table, containing the names and the appointment of the deputation, consisting of the Rev Mr Munro (Moderator), Rev H. McLeod, Rev D. B. Blair, and Rev Murdoch Sutherland. The two latter gentlemen only were present, and, having explained the causes of the absence of the other parties, addressed the Synod.

Rev Mr Blair stated that they came as wayfaring men to spend an hour with us in fraternal intercourse. They were scarcely free from the dust of the road and had no prepared speeches to deliver, but would give utterance to their sentiments and feelings as these arose in their breasts. He stated that they felt not under constraint, but free to express their sentiments as among brethren, and proceeded to speak on various topics of interest. He gave his opinion that precipitate union would prove no blessing to the Churches or to the Province.—The subject must be well considered and the people prepared. It was said that the people were more forward than the ministers, but Mr B. was of a different opinion. He did not think the ministers generally had any desire to retard it, but wished that they and their people might see and act together on a matter of such vital importance to the interests of religion.

Rev M. Sutherland spoke at greater length, and referred to a greater variety of subjects. He directed special attention to the loud call for increased effort, whether jointly or separately, to prevent the desecration of the Lord's day, first by our own people and next by the public at large. He referred to the travelling on the Eastern and Western roads, especially on the latter, as disgraceful to any christian people and a curse to any land, and gave his opinion that just so surely as it went on unchecked so surely would Railway trains follow, and those

who worshipped in that Church would hear the whistle of the Locomotive, distracting their minds while engaged in devotion. He stated the provision which the Free Synod had made to supply the Railway labourers with preaching during the remainder of this season, and asked for the co-operation of this Synod in that work.

He then spoke on the subject of union. He called attention to the grand objects which should be aimed at by union, such as the promotion of the divine glory, increasing affection and the conversion of souls to the Lord Jesus.

These remarks were responded to in a series of speeches by Rev Messrs. Roy, Murdoch, McCulloch, Cameron, Baine, McKay, E. Ross, Watson, Mr Roderick McGregor, and others, when the Moderator called upon the Rev Dr Forrester, who was present as a spectator, to give his sentiments on the subject. The Dr stated that he would at once accept the Moderator's invitation, but that what he had to say must be regarded simply as his individual sentiments, for which no other person was responsible. He stated that once he had been averse to union with the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia but that his sentiments on that subject were more than modified—they were changed. A more accurate acquaintance with that body, and with the state and wants of the Province, and careful reflection on the subject in all its aspects had led his mind to the conclusion that union was practicable and proper, and that measures should be adopted to bring it about.

The following resolution, on motion of the Rev P. G. McGregor, was then passed unanimously:—"That the members of this Synod hail with much satisfaction, the appearance, among us, of our brethren of the Free Church; and having listened with great pleasure to their addresses, desire to express gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for the progress which we are evidently making toward a cordial union, and cheerfully pledge ourselves, by avoiding unnecessary causes of irritation, and by endeavoring to promote the growth of christian love among ministers and people, to further a cause which is dear to our hearts."

The Moderator expressed the satisfaction with which he read to the deputation the resolution thus: unanimously passed, and called upon Dr Forrester to