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ADDRESS TO THE UNION, JUNE, 1873.

REV. K. M. FENWICK, KINGSTON.

Honoured Brethren,

On the 14th June, 1854, in the City of Montreal, the ministers and delegates of the Congregational churches of Canada met together in fraternal union for the first time. Previous to that date, they had annually assembled in two bands; then they met as a united body. The several missionary organizations were also combined; and thus the year 1854 is rendered memorable as a new era in our denominational history. As chairman of the Union of Canada West, it fell to my lot to preside over the amalgamated union, just formed, until its officers were chosen; and also in that capacity to deliver the inaugural address. Whilst, therefore, only serving one year in the honourable post to which, by your free choice, in June last, I was called, I have the rare honour and responsibility of a second time delivering a chairman's address. This fact naturally suggests a reference to the past, and furnishes a period for review, brief enough to prevent the weariness of extended details, and yet sufficiently long to admit of satisfactory analysis.

Principles require time for their full development; but the short compass allotted to human life narrows the period of public action within a limited space, so that soon the individuals composing any association pass over the stage, new ones enter, and ere long the entire aspect is radically changed.

Slowly and silently this process has been going on with us. How many who hailed with gladness and hope the consummation just referred to, and who were present at the nuptial feast, are no longer with us at our annual gatherings. Out of thirty-eight ministerial members of the Union then present, only one-half remain. Three have removed to the Lower Provinces; eight have left the Dominion, but are still employed elsewhere in preaching the glorious gospel; and eight are now, we trust, "among the spirits of just men made perfect."

What solemn and sacred memories—rendered intense by the recollection of fraternal intercourse and Christian fellowship—hallowed by the prospect of anticipated reunion, cluster round the names of those who have "crossed the flood." Robertson of Sherbrooke, so rich in scriptural thought, wise in counsel, and racy in homely phrase; Miles of Abbotsford, genial and manly—tender, yet bold; Hayden of Coldsprings, simple-hearted and true; Climie of Belleville, ardent, earnest and fearless, yet ever warmly responsive to the affection of his brethren; and Lillie, dear saintly Lillie, lover of wisdom, yet still more ardent lover of men; faithful to his Master, and the father of all his students, from the beginning to the end.

To these, in our "In Memoriam," we have to add Bucher, Buckham and Hiram Wilson, brethren not generally known, yet loved and remembered. Nor can we omit the name of John Roaf, for, although he did not fall in with the denomina-