

years standing and upwards; next, those of ten years standing and upwards; and lastly, those under ten years standing; walking in solemn procession, three and three abreast, towards the place of Union. The Relief Synod at the same time, went in the order of their Presbyteries, three and three, to the same place of Union-consummation.

The Hall presented a very animated spectacle. Densely crowded in every corner, from floor to ceiling, with many persons perched among the rafters of the building, wherever a position could be obtained and kept, it exhibited a living mass of eager spectators, amounting, according to the reckoning of those best acquainted with the capacity of the building, to upwards of Three Thousand; and even from the windows in the roof, which were necessarily open for ventilation, there were several attempting to secure a glimpse of the crowd below.

The centre area of the Hall was allotted to the two Synods, the members of either taking their places, according to a plan previously arranged, whereby they might be so intermingled as to admit of their giving to each other the right hand of fellowship, after the example should be set by the Moderators. On a raised platform stood the chair destined for the Moderator of the United Synod, with chairs on either side, occupied by the Moderators of the separate Synods; and in front, a large writing-table for the accommodation of the Clerks. In addition to the Clerks, the platform was occupied by the Professors of Theology, and a number of the more aged and distinguished members of both Synods. All the members having taken their seats, the peculiar and very solemn business of the day was commenced by the aged and venerable Moderator of the Relief Synod, the Rev. William Auld, who, rising in his place caused a profound stillness to pervade the vast assembly. He gave out the 133rd Psalm, which was sung by the meeting standing, and the words of which, chaunted by so many voices, and swelling and falling on the ear 'like the sound of many waters,' produced a deep impression on every heart, and drew tears from many an eye. Mr. Auld then called on the Clerk of the Relief Synod to read the last minute adopted by that court, and prepared with a view to the Union.

The Rev. David Crawford accordingly read the minute, which is as follows:—

*"James' Place Church, Edinburgh, 13th May, 1857.*—The Relief Synod met and was constituted. The Synod having for a considerable number of years had the question of Union with the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church under consideration; and having long and anxiously enquired into the extent of their agreement with the other, in doctrine, discipline, worship, and government; have great satisfaction in declaring, as the result of their deliberations and enquiries, that any differences of opinion or practice which were formerly supposed to exist, and to present obstacles in the way of a scriptural and cordial union of the two bodies, either never had any existence, or have, in the good providence of God, been removed out of the way; and that the Synods, and the Churches, whom they severally represent, are agreed in doctrine, discipline, worship, and government; and therefore, that the Synods, without compromising or changing the principles they hold as parts and portions of the visible Church of Christ, may unite with each other in carrying out the great