

election is over forever, Christ is your all, and will be your all, throughout the eternal ages. You are one in Christ. Retain, maintain, sustain your unity. "By this let all men know that ye are Christ's disciples, that ye love one another."

Brethren, I have now been for some months a member of a united Presbytery. Believe me, we have never from our first moment of union felt otherwise, than as brethren. We never knew meetings of Presbytery more cordial, more frank, more brotherly. Now and then the thought occurs, what could our long severance have meant? On what was it based? On what and by what were we divided? We cannot tell. We are as if we had been always one. It will be so, I trust and believe, by the blessing of our living Lord with you.

Let me say a single word with regard to the minister of your united choice. Brethren, I know him well, know him to be a ripe scholar, a sound and original thinker, a wise counsellor, and, as you know still better, a faithful pastor. Esteem him very highly in love for his work's sake; esteem him for his own. Obey my text thus also in cultivating your affection for a pastor who stands high for genuine manliness of character in the respect of his brethren in the ministry, and whose ministrations, valued by you in the past, will profit you yet more abundantly, as you and he grow together in grace and the knowledge of your Lord.

Brethren, your determination to act henceforward as a united congregation took effect, I was overjoyed to hear, in a spirit of harmony all but absolutely complete. Towards the one or two otherwise minded what will be your demeanour? Let it be governed by the law of my text. "Be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." I cannot but cherish the hope that they too will in time be moved, when they see "that your faith groweth exceedingly, and that the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth," when they see your "work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of