

O! 'tis a garb of honor,
 That bears no coward stain;
 It has been worn right bravely
 On many a battle plain—
 In conflict's widest charges, still
 The Scots have borne them well,
 And victory has followed off
 The Highland pibroch's swell!

The garb that gave with deathless power
 To Scotland's heart a thrill.
 At "Royal Charlie's" fallen name,
 That lingers fondly still—
 The tartan plaid that Wallace wore—
 That Robert Bruce adorned,
 As Colin Campbell's "thin red line"
 The Russian squadrons scorned.

Then welcome be the Royal Scots,
 And worthy may they be
 To wear the gallant battle-garb
 Of fame and liberty.
 Yes, worthy sons of such brave sires,
 The Patriot bands of yore,
 Who chased the Roman Eagles home,
 Affrighted from their shore.

—WILLIAM PITTMAN LETT.

Ottawa, July 1, 1887.

THE LATE REV. ALEX. MCKAY, A.M.

DEAR EDITOR: An obituary notice of this venerable clergyman, in the Halifax *Presbyterian Witness* of July 16, puts the blame of the Eldon lawsuit on the Kirk congregation. This is quite different from the account we have in Canada here. The *Witness* also says that "ill health" was the cause of his being laid aside for ten long years in the Union, without a congregation. This also is very different from what we know here. The Rev. Alex. McKay was a truly able and laborious man, as well as a pious and devoted Minister. But in the Union he was left to drift without a charge for more than ten years, while the wire-pullers of the majority were putting *their own men* of a very inferior class into the vacant charges. Any one may see that if the Rev. Mr. McKay could not take a congregation on account of "ill health," he could hardly have undertaken the much more sedentary and arduous scholastic labors, to which he was less used, and which he so ably fulfilled. We cannot shut our eyes to these facts, and to many of the same kind which we see around us here. Was it ill-health that left a man of Rev. Alex. McKay's talents and pastoral piety and love, to wear away ten of his ripest years in arduous scholastic labors, while so many vacancies were opening in the Union? Was it not the wire-pulling of the ruling majority that quickly put their own pets into the best places? They try to win the Kirk minority

into Union, but, *when once in*, they supplant them by many plans, besides the plea of "*ill-health*." Look around you in your own Provinces. Of all the Kirk Ministers who joined the Union in the Maritime Provinces, can you now find more than three or four remaining? If Union is such a paradise, why have the Ministers fled? The true safety of Ministers and people is, *not to enter it* while the ruling majority allow such a spirit to rule in it.

That bad spirit is shown in another article in the same *Presbyterian Witness* of July 16, attacking the Ex-Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Rev. Principal Cunningham, D. D., as a teacher unworthy of Christian confidence! *If he were in the Union, he would soon be cut adrift, if they could do it!* What do they mean by asking us into Union, while they allow their Union papers to attack the wisest and best men of our Mother Church so? and while they use those that join them, as they used the venerable Rev. Alex. McKay, A. M.?

INQUIRER.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

THE SCOTTISH KIRK has sent out six new Missionaries from Scotland in the last twelvemonth, and has received no less than 600 heathen converts by baptism. Its Missionary income, including the Ladies' Association, is \$175,000, supporting 42 Missionaries and 175 native Assistants in India, Africa, China, etc. It has begun to collect another \$50,000 extra for urgent calls.

The present generation has seen no less than 356 new Parishes endowed by the Church of Scotland at an expense of \$5,500,000, besides the cost of their new church buildings. And now she has begun to erect 50 new Parishes more to supply the needs of the overcrowded centres of population, and to endow them. This shows strong Church life surely. Let us not boast, but thank God, and take courage to do more and more. The Christian Liberality of the Kirk in 1886 (including seat-rents) was over \$.,000,000, being over \$150,000 in advance of last year. The total membership was 571,029, being 6594 of an increase upon 1885. The General Assembly of 1887 will be memorable for the discipline which it was required to exercise. It deposed two ministers, suspended another, and rebuked a whole Presbytery at its bar. An overture was adopted having in view the more efficient supervision of the ministry, and a Committee appointed to devise measures for the purpose.