

the United States, have made much progress in this good work. They would fain complete it. And the Methodists seem at length to be taking practical steps toward the same end.

Confining ourselves at present to what is passing within our own bounds, the Canadian branch of the Kirk of Scotland and the Canada Presbyterian Church are on the eve of an amalgamation into one body. Very little now separates them, and the spirit pervading both bodies is such that all remaining matters of difference will, in all likelihood, be got over. Strange as it may seem, the Kirk is more eager for the Union than the other body. The simple fact is that it is the weaker body, and suffers most from separation. The terms of Union are wisely made as few and as simple as possible. As to the basis, the Standards common to both bodies are adopted, with the proviso that the Establishment question is to be left open. The amalgamated Church will stand upon its own feet, and any special and organic connection with any Scottish body will cease, while fraternal relations will be maintained with other Presbyterian Churches. As to Worship (including of course the question of Hymns and Organs) existing usages are to be allowed, and future legislation left to the united body. The most difficult practical question is that relating to Queen's College. A resolution adopted by the Committee of Conference favoured the maintenance of a "Presbyterian University" with Provincial Theological Halls. In the Kirk, there is a warm attachment to Queen's, but in the Canada Presbyterian Church, there is strong opposition to the Church undertaking the work of general education, and many leading men would rather remain as they are than be saddled with such a burden. We need scarcely say that we sympathize with them. To us, it seems that a solution of the difficulty might be reached, if Queen's College were set apart as an independent institution, made as thoroughly Presbyterian as its supporters chose, but not under Church control.

As the matter now stands, the Basis of Union has been generally approved by both Churches, and details have been referred to Committees, whose reports will be submitted to a special meeting of the C.P. Assembly, in Toronto, November 7th. The Synod of the Kirk will meet also, about the same time, if summoned by the Commission of Synod. By these bodies, the subject has to be referred to Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions, and, if these inferior courts consent, after the terms have been finally settled, the Union will be consummated in June, 1872.

The Methodist amalgamation does not appear so close at hand. A basis of Union has indeed been agreed upon by a Committee of representatives from the various Conferences, which seems to have been framed by taking something out of each system—a bit of Episcopacy, a measure of lay-representation, and undivided clerical administration. The Wesleyan Conference will consent to Lay-delegation if the people wish it, as represented in the Quarterly Meetings. But the Primitives must have Lay-representation throughout in Administration as well as in Legislation. Whether any compromise can be effected, time will show. The spirit