

gain, and the plaudits elicited from the audience by these successive responses to the appeal the President and Dr. McLeod so well had put, shewed how, when unaffectedly and freely expounded, the Union was felt to be that which called the strongest sympathies of all present into play. Mr. Wilson of the Abbey Church, Paisley, in some brief but pointed remarks, pressed the proposition of a literary periodical as what should immediately be taken in hand; and, on his motion, it was resolved at once to appoint a Sub-Committee out of the Acting Committee of the Union, to carry out the necessary preliminaries for such an organ without delay.

A good deal of general conversation subsequently ensued, and, out of the various suggestions made and adopted, it was found that there had emerged these three distinct propositions:—1. That a Church periodical be fairly contemplated and set agoing. 2. That, during the sitting of future General Assemblies, the Union shall hold morning meetings in Edinburgh, two or more, as may be resolved on, for prayer, for reading of the Holy Scriptures, for general intercourse among the members, and for the hearing of papers, prepared by any of the members on such subjects as the purpose of the Association embrace; while there shall also, within the period of the Assembly's sitting, be, at least, one Sunday evening lecture or sermon, open to the public, but delivered with special reference to what the Union contemplates, and in presence of its members. 3. That a plan of vigorous operation be recommended to the members resident throughout the country, with a view to the organising and regular working of as many local branches as possible.

Other results, it was deeply and unanimously felt, would quickly follow these; and the large and cordial accession of numbers to the Secretary's list at the close of the meeting evinced how very favourably the statements made, and the resolutions carried, had impressed the minds of those present. It was too late to carry out the plan of a series of Assembly meetings this year, or of the Sunday evening service; but a second meeting was appointed to be held next morning for devotional exercises and the reading of a paper, which had kindly been undertaken by the Rev. J. E. Cumming of East Church, Perth.

On Friday morning, accordingly, the 28th, the Union re-assembled in the Offices of the Church; and though there had been no opportunity for any general advertisement, the meeting was again very full and animated. The Rev. Mr. Thomson of Forgan opened the meeting with the reading of the Scriptures and prayer. Afterwards Mr. Cumming read his paper. Its subject was, "Home Missions, and some questions of difficulty connected with them." Though necessarily confined to brief limits, the paper yet treated a theme so ample and valuable with remarkable clearness, effec-

tiveness, and point. The writer gave simply the results of what had been a very minute and faithful experience, on his own part, of the entire congregational and parochial agencies in the home field; and to his interesting details and conclusions those present listened with much gratification. By several members—amongst others the Rev. W. Smith of Trinity College Church, who is fast taking a deserved place among the worthiest of his compeers—the thanks of the meeting were well and appropriately conveyed to Mr. Cumming. It would be beyond our space to give, even in outline, the ground traversed in his paper; but this is no less necessary, since, in reply to a request preferred, that he should give it forth for circulation in a printed form, he was understood to promise that it would be offered by and by in the pages of this *Magazine*. Our readers, therefore, will have a full opportunity of weighing and judging for themselves.

At this second meeting another very considerable addition was made to the list of members. Much congratulation was expressed on all sides, that, under the Divine blessing, our enterprise had so prospered and been favoured; and, with the expectation of our plan being yet greatly developed, and much being brought out against another year, we separated.

The Union may now fairly be described as established on a well-ascertained basis, and upheld by names and countenance of which, certainly, it has no reason to be ashamed. We are confident in its permanency and growth, just because it has sprung out of so much singleness of heart, and its intent is so true and simple—"to consider one another, to provoke unto love and to good works." While, therefore we will rejoice in friendly aid from every quarter, we are not anxious to press the undertaking eagerly or with undue zeal on the attention of any. Every tree is known by its fruits. In its fruits ere long, we are persuaded, the Union will best commend itself. We only beseech the different friends now scattered in their country homes not to lose sight of what has been so fervently taken in hand. Each member, be he minister or elder, has only to win a little circle of brethren round him in his own district, to meet occasionally to consult together on the wide range of topics opened in the Union, to seek the blessing of the Great Head of the Church together, to preserve the issue of such suggestions as may thus emerge, and as they may deem worthy for general communication, and earnestly to extend the bonds of fellowship, as God gives opportunity, on every side of them; and then, we cannot make question but we will find this movement turned largely to the glory of Him, Whose we are, and Whom, in all things and in all ways, we ought to serve.

## Glasgow Meeting of the Church Union.

The first annual social meeting of the Glasgow Branch of the Church Union was held on Thursday evening, in the Religious Institution Rooms. The Rev. Professor Hill, D.D., occupied the chair; and among those present we observed the Rev. Norman Macleod, D.D., of Barony; Rev. Mr. Colvin, Maryhill; Rev. Dr. McTaggart, St. James's; Rev. Dr. Wylie, Carlisle; Rev. Mr. Rankin, Sunn; Rev. Mr. Watson, St. Matthew's; Rev. Mr. Alexander, Surling; Rev. M. Hutton, Cambusnethan; Rev. Mr. McKie, Erskine; Rev. Mr. Nisbet, St. Stephen's; Rev. R. K. Monteith; Thomas Murray, Esq.; John Burnett, Esq.; C. H. Murray, Esq.; William Aitken, Esq., &c.

After prayer by Dr. McTaggart, the company sat down to tea; after which the Rev. Mr. Alexander returned thanks.

Dr. Hill said he had to thank the members of the Union for the honour which they had done him in requesting him to occupy the chair. It was an honour to which he was not entitled, except, perhaps, as being the oldest man connected with the Union. But although he had not been able to attend many of their meetings, he had assuredly been not indifferent to what was going on. He rejoiced at their success as an institution, and earnestly hoped for the continued prosperity of the Union. They had now members from all quarters of the country, and many of the names connected with it would do honour to any institution. He had to congratulate the members upon the manner in which their proceedings had been kept within their own proper sphere. At their first meeting the objects of the society had been pretty distinctly marked out, and he rejoiced to think that they had so closely adhered to that arrangement, and refrained from interfering in any way with the government or discipline of the Church. They had very properly confined themselves to seeking that improvement and advantage to be derived from communion with each other, which would enable them the better to discharge their duty as ministers and members of the Church, with glory to God and benefit to those under their charge. This was the true object of their society, and if they persevered in seeking after it in a proper spirit, without doubt the blessing of God would be with them.

The Rev. Mr. COLVIN, secretary, read the following report:—

"In submitting the first annual report of the Glasgow Branch of the Church Union, it may not be out of place, before alluding to details, to recapitulate briefly the history of its origin.

"*Origin of the Union.*—It was simply this. Many of the office-bearers and members of the Church felt that the opportunities which existed for the cultivation of cordial intercourse, for social prayer, for 'considering one another, and provoking to love and good works,' were too few. It was believed that 'the labourers in the vineyard are too solitary and isolated from their brethren.' It was thought that, 'if once united, they would afford mutual aid, by advice, information, and kind encouragement, to an extent never yet realised.' Hence, in accordance with the general principles of the Church Union, a branch was formed in Glasgow on 5th January 1857.

"*Principles of the Union.*—These principles are so familiar to you, that it seems unnecessary to specialise them here. Suffice it to say, that they are twofold, or *devotional and practical*. In conformity therewith, prayer to Al-

W. R.