

to witness the Union should be by tickets. For these the demand was so great, and the pressure of people from the outside of Rose Street Church, Edinburgh, where the tickets were to be obtained, so eager, that in their anxiety to secure them, the streets became impassible; and the Committee finding it unpossable to maintain order, were obliged to retire to consult as to what steps should be taken.

The Bristo Street Church was fixed on for the consummation of the Union, particularly because it was the largest place of worship belonging to either body, but chiefly because it was the first place of worship of either connection in the city, and the spot where the breach in the Secession took place in 1747, and where the Union of the two great bodies of Seceders took place in 1820. But it was found that Bristo Street Church would be too small to accommodate the multitudes seeking admission, and in consequence, the Committee of arrangement sought directions from the different Synods what they were to do. The Convener anticipating the difficulty, had been in consultation with the Secretary of the Free Church Committee, and had ascertained that the use of Tanfield Hall, (where the Free Church Assembly had been first constituted), would be obtained, were it found necessary. The Secession Synod, however, decided by vote to keep by the original arrangement, of meeting in Bristo Street Church. But soon after this decision was given, a message came from the Relief Synod, stating that many of their members had been disappointed in obtaining tickets, and that a more commodious place still would be necessary to gratify those who were anxious to be present at the Union. It was, therefore, now agreed to accept of the kind offer of Tanfield Hall.

As it was expected that the Union would take place in Bristo Street Church, the Secession Synod were to meet previously in Nicolson Street Church, and the Synod of Relief in College Street Church, which are both near Bristo Street. But when it was determined to accept of Tanfield Hall, the Secession Synod adjourned to Broughton Place Church, and the Relief Synod to James' Place Church, as being both more in proximity to Tanfield Hall. The United Associate Synod being constituted, James Peddie, Esq., W. S., read the minute prepared with a view to Union.* Dr. Brown was then called on by the Moderator to lead in prayer, which he did in a very impressive, and heart-stirring address to the throne of grace. After this, the minute was solemnly adopted, all the members standing and holding up their right hand. The vote was unanimous and numerous, and some of the aged ministers remarked that they had never witnessed, in the Synod, a vote so solemnly interesting.

Similar proceedings were conducted in the Relief Synod, (as was noticed in a former communication,) and now the two Synods, the hour being come, proceeded from their respective places, to Tanfield Hall. The United Associate Synod, headed by their Moderator and Clerks, and by their Professors of Divinity, proceeded in the order of Seniority:—first, Ministers of thirty years standing and upwards; next, those of twenty

* This minute will be quoted when we follow the Synods into Tanfield Hall, where the Union was happily consummated.