

ny day, "Lord, what wilt thou have us to do?"

We heartily sympathise with our brethren who fought the battles of the Kirk in the high old days when the war-cries were "Kirkman" and "Antiburgher." No wonder that they feel it very hard to forget old offences, and forgive. We must make due allowance for their feelings, even though there is far too much of the old Adam in them, on both sides. But we pray them not to be too hard and unrelenting. "Shall the sword (of old grudges) devour for ever? Knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end? how long, then, shall it be ere thou bid the people return from pursuing their brethren?" (2 Sam. 2: 26.) Remember that there were offences on both sides, and I fear that both sides were only too much alike in our resemblance to the old Scottish Thistle. And why should we or they be ashamed to confess it?

"Sharp Thistle, strong Thistle, dear emblem of Scotia!

I take off my bonnet and deck it with thee!"

But even if it were otherwise—even if the Antiburghers were altogether wrong, and we were altogether right and faultless—yet still it is no more than our duty to forgive and make peace. For there is no victory more glorious than this—that when the ill-will begins on the other side, the good-will should begin and prevail too on our side."

What harm could be done by Union with our brethren? What harm?—Would it break us off from the Church of Scotland? No indeed! The Church of Scotland declared at her last meeting of General Assembly, in the venerable metropolis of Scotland, that the cord which connects us with her will be lengthened but not broken by this Union. Why, then, should we hinder her, when God is actually commanding her to "lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes?" (Isaiah 54: 2).

But may not this Union with the other Presbyterians lead to Division among ourselves? Yes, it may indeed! That is what I fear. We are too proud as a Church; and, like the old Jews, we are apt to boast of our connections, and to say, "We have Abraham to our father." We are apt to "trust to ourselves that we are right, and to despise others," and

to say to the other churches, "Stand by thyself; I am holier than thou!" This is the fatal failing in us all; and if we cannot cure it by the help of God, there is only one alternative left us; namely, to become utter Pharisees at last, pleasing not God, but being contrary to all men, until the wrath shall come upon us to the uttermost. This was the dreadful end of the Jewish Church, which hated the Gentiles so much that they would rather perish than unite with them. I dread exceedingly that we are too much like them, and that some of us love our own party more than the whole Church, which is the body of Christ! Do we not? Let your own conscience reply. Are there not some men among us—and some good men too—who think more of the Church of Scotland than of the whole Church of Christ? Nay; do not some prefer their Church to Christ Himself? They hear the Saviour pleading over and over again "that we all may be one;" (John 17: 11, 21, 22, 23). But still they let Him plead on in vain, and they refuse to be one with any denomination that "followeth not with us."

Now I do fear that the Union will bring us Division from these men. I fear they will leave us. I am very sorry for it. I can love them still, for they are sincere even to desperation. Dear mistaken brethren! Oh! I think I could almost wish myself accursed for their sake if I could only bring them to the love and unity of the Saviour! I pray to God for them daily, that they may be saved, and made one with the whole body of Christ. I pray God that they may not revolt and rend the bowels of our poor Church! That would be a black day for them, opening a door for sin and woe to children yet unborn! That dire division may come; but those that resist the Union will be responsible for it! Never say one bitter word against them. If any person or any party shall refuse the Union, let him or them do so, in peace. Let them have the same liberty as we.

Would not the Union remove our old landmarks? Nay; it would only restore the ancient landmarks of the Scottish Church. We are uniting on the very same standards that our Mother Church adopted more than two hundred years ago. So that the Union becomes a