

## Correspondence.

*To the Editor of the Monthly Record of the Church of Scotland.*

I wish to direct your attention to the report of the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland, published in the November No. of the MONTHLY RECORD of that Church, which contains these words. "The Union of the Presbyterians in the Dominion of Canada has at length taken place. A very large majority have concurred in it but a few of the brethren connected with the Church of Scotland have declined to join the Union." The first question that will occur to the readers of the above quoted passage, is to ask: Is it really true, that only a few of the former adherents of the Church of Scotland in the Dominion of Canada have declined to join in the Union, and the second question naturally is: Whence does the colonial committee derive its information? Is a matter of such vast importance to the adherents of the Church of Scotland, both lay and clerical in the Dominion of Canada surely there ought to be an authoritative source somewhere, through which the colonial committee should constantly be apprised of the real and true state of things here, with respect to the late Union. The Presbytery of Pictou if they only avail themselves of it, have abundance of material in their hands to show the Colonial Committee that the statement in the report is not correct, especially with regard to the Maritime Provinces. It is not the "few" but the "many" not the minority, but the large majority who have declined to join the Union. To show that this is true I beg to direct attention to the following undeniable facts.

Take Nova Scotia proper.—And it ought to be borne in mind in this connection, that the first synod formed in

connection with the Church of Scotland in British North America was that of Nova Scotia and N. E. Island, the rest followed.—In Nova Scotia proper, before the late Union took place, there were eighteen congregations in connection with the Church of Scotland, of these six only have joined the Union, twelve declining to do so, and assuming, if you like, that all the membership in these six congregations were heartily for the Union—an assumption which is far from being true, for we have the significant fact, that although the Union has been consummated two years ago, and an act of the Legislature has been passed, to enable congregations wishing to join in the Union, by a vote of two-thirds of the pew owners, to carry the temporalities of the congregation with them—yet to this day not one of the seceding congregations has ventured to bring the question before their people. A decisive proof the leaders know that the congregations are far from being unanimous in the matter of Union. But admitting they were unanimous and that all the membership had heartily joined it—what then? Just this! That one third of the congregations entered into the Union, two thirds declined to join, and if the population connected with the eighteen congregations be counted, which can easily be done, it shall then be found that more than three-fourths of the people in Nova Scotia proper, have declined to join in the Union. Not the few, but the many. Not the minority but an overwhelming majority. In the island of Cape Breton although the Church of Scotland had no clergyman settled there at the time the union question had been agitated, nevertheless, the adherents of the Church of Scotland there, have almost to a man, declined joining in the Union, and do decline. True, the Halifax Witness "a notoriously unreliable authority in such matters," says that the congregation