

THE  
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OF  
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

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APRIL, 1865.

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**PRESBYTERIAN UNION.**

We learn with great pleasure and with thankfulness to the HEAD of the CHURCH that the Union movement is succeeding in Scotland beyond our most sanguine anticipations. Recent meetings of Committees have removed obstacles that at one time appeared insuperable. It is confidently stated that the most difficult part of the work of negotiation is done; and it is hoped that within a very few years the "FREE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND" will be constituted. Present indications convince us that when the Union is consummated, few, if any belonging to either the Free or the United Presbyterian Churches will stand aloof. Due pains will be taken to prepare the public mind for the event; and ample discussions will precede and follow every practical step in advance. We regret that the "Reformed Presbyterians" will not likely be at first included in the united church; but they will fall in in due time. Within the last few years they have made marked progress in the right direction.

But it is not in Scotland alone that Presbyterians are uniting. In England they will not lag behind their brethren in the North. The idea of a free *British Church* including all the non-Erastian Presbyterians of England and Scotland is being earnestly advocated by some leading minds: but its realization must be the happy work of the next generation. It will take twenty years of hard and successful work to bring British Presbyterianism up to the relative dignity and influence it enjoyed two hundred and

fifty years ago. The unions now in progress are a necessary preliminary.

In Australia and New Zealand there are movements for union some of which may have terminated successfully since the date of our last tidings,—and all of which are hopeful.

Amid the thunder of the American war the Old and New School Presbyterians of the Confederacy have consummated a union. The same bodies in the North are earnestly discussing the necessity of following the example of their Southern brethren.—It is felt that many of the causes which led to the great schism have ceased to exist. The New School has its "Committees" doing the work which in the Old School devolves on "Boards." The difference is merely nominal. Better still, the New School have become decidedly orthodox. Their Committee of Publication issue works on the Atonement and the work of Christ which give no uncertain sound. Albert Barnes no longer leads the Theology of the New School. Dr. H. B. Smith and Dr. Shedd are much abler and much sounder men.

The last number of the *Princeton Review* contains an able article on the subject of Presbyterian Union. Very truly and forcibly does the author (Dr. DE BAUM of the Dutch Reformed) present the difficulties and evils attending the present system:—

"All over our land there are hamlets, and villages, and towns, in which may be found from two to half a dozen different Calvinistic Presbyterian denominations struggling for a foothold, and each seeking to establish its church. In many cases there are means enough expended to build and pay for one