

her last cent in all time coming—thus granting what our enemies crave, power to persecute us at pleasure—in other words, placing our Kirk in Canada under ban and proscription, much in the same way as was that of the Huguenots in France under her Catholic kings—should you, I say, sully your names by passing such an Act, and thus kindle against us the fires of persecution, then do so. Then times of trial are before our Kirk, *but God is her defence*—and she must present a spectacle worthy of herself in the day of tribulation! Then Scotland's Kirk, that has weathered so many storms, and passed through so many trials, in her long and glorious history, must again face the flames of persecution, but true to her ancient blazon, "The bush burning, but not consumed," she will—God help her—pass through them in triumph! Then I call upon all her children, on all true Scotsmen in Canada, to rise in her defence. I recognize the right or the power of no body, legal or ecclesiastical, to legislate away the privileges of my Church. Let her true sons and daughters now rally around her as in the days of yore. Think, my friends, think of the everlasting interests that are at stake. Think of the unspeakable blessings which you and your forefathers have reaped from her communion. Be faithful then to the Kirk of Scotland which is the Kirk of Christ—"be faithful even unto death, and Christ will give you a crown of life."

The times of trial which are approaching will try the faith of some, showing who are faithful and who are false. Alas! that any should be false; that ministers, especially, should break their ordination vows, and without the slightest cause seek the overthrow of a Church approved of God by so many tokens, hallowed by so many memorials, and tried and proved through so many centuries; and all for what? A bare idea! a thing not even in existence! to set up by and by a little upstart novelty in opposition to her,—make a disgraceful compromise with her enemies,—shake hands with those that are plotting her destruction,—create an unnecessary and sinful schism,—add another to the hundred sects already in America, to struggle for a brief existence, and in a few years to be split again into as many divisions by the inevitable tendency of sectarianism, and carried away by every wind of doctrine! Alas! that any should leave the firm rock of Scotland's Kirk for such shifting sands of delusion. No benefit, but detriment to religion, can flow from this movement, which is political. The destruction of God's Kirk is a crime which would be followed by disastrous consequences to Canada. No sect ever prospered by unfair means; and that new "creature of the state" to be set up in June, and laden with the spoils of a plundered Church, though "spreading itself like the green bay tree," will soon pass away,—passing from one change to another, till, what with innovations, new fangled notions, heresies, and Babylonian instruments of music, you will be unable to recognize anything Presbyterian in it, except the name. Instead of Churches being increased by such "Unions," they always become fewer. "It is a statistical fact, which cannot be gainsaid, that the ratio of increase of the two Presbyterian sects that united here some years ago was much greater during the ten years previous to that union, than it has been during the same period after it."* This is obvious enough,—only *one* Church now existing, where there were *two* before, and a friendly rivalry and stimulus for exertion being wanting. Better even a number of different sects, co-operating, in a friendly way, in works of charity and benevolence. A complete union and uniformity of the whole Church, (the dream of fanatics,) would restore the

* Letter against Union, in "Monthly Record," of Nova Scotia, January, 1874.