

II. BROTHERLY GREETINGS.

An address by a member of a delegation to the Synod of the Maritime Provinces, previous to the Union of 1875 :—

Mr. Moderator, I can assure you it is with feelings of no ordinary emotion I stand here as one of the delegates from my Church to yours. We occupy this day a position somewhat similar to that of very near relatives long estranged from each other, but who, after many years of suspicion and hard feelings, have at last come to be on such terms that they can shake hands and exchange the offices of civility and friendship. The best thing for relations is never to quarrel nor suffer themselves to become estranged, and the next best thing to that is if they have quarrelled to drop that quarrel and frankly confess that there were faults on both sides. It is rather a strange thing but we all know it to be true that a misunderstanding between relations—and the nearer the more so—is more difficult to remove than is the case when no such relationship exists. Why should this be so? The reason is well known and a sufficient explanation. The strife cannot destroy the relation and the relation irritates and intensifies the contention. When brothers quarrel they still, and in spite of its bitterness, feel an interest in each other. A man cannot dismiss his brother from his thoughts as he can a stranger or a mere neighbour. He feels interested in what he does and how he acts and succeeds, and this leads him to watch his movements and sometimes to meddle, and thus too often the strife is continued. Thus it is with Churches. The more closely related and the more numerous the ties that bind them together the more painful their contentions when they contend and the more difficult to reconcile. Denominations that are far from us in doctrine and practice we dismiss from our thoughts, and when they act improperly we are not much surprised, but when joined in the close and