

measure, only in the anticipation that all those ministers will be speedily incorporated with the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland.

III. That this meeting strongly recommend that the Commission of Synod at the next meeting, on the first Wednesday of May next, may issue a respectful invitation to the [United] Synod of Upper Canada to meet with the Synod of the Presbyterian Church at their first ordinary meeting in Kingston, that both Synods may then and there consider the terms of union already proposed by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, with a view to such modification of them as may admit of the reception into the said Synod of all the ministers now on the roll of the United Synod, and of this being done during the session of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church without waiting for the action of the Presbyteries under said Synod.

At a meeting of the Commission of Synod in Toronto, May 1st, 1838, at which were present Messrs. McGill, Gale, Leach, Ferguson, McIntosh, Murray and George, the letter of the members of the Legislature and the proceedings and resolutions of the Conference having been read and considered it was resolved to transmit them to the Synod of Canada, "with a respectful and earnest recommendation that immediate steps be taken in regard to the same." The members of the Commission, however, although individually "disposed cordially to support the measure recommended," did not feel authorized to take any further official action in the premises.

#### EIGHTH AND NINTH MEETINGS OF SYNOD

The United Synod held two more annual meetings, but no record or report of either has been discovered. The first was held at Cavan commencing on the last Monday of June, 1839, and the other at Demorestville commencing on the last Wednesday of June, 1840. At the meeting at Cavan, Rev. D. W. Eastman's name was again entered on the roll of Synod, he having returned to the Presbytery of Toronto when the Niagara Presbytery became practically suspended in consequence of the Rebellion. It is not known that any important business was transacted at either session except in the direction of union with the Synod of Canada.

#### PROGRESS TOWARDS UNION.

At the session at Cavan, the proceedings of the conference at Toronto, and of the Commissioners of Synod having been considered, the United Synod of Upper Canada again took action in favour of union between the two Synods, and appointed a committee to confer with a committee of the Synod of Canada on the subject. This action was officially communicated to the Synod of Canada when in session at Kingston, July 4th, as was also the action of the Commission of Synod and the communication from the ten members of the Legislature, whereupon the Synod appointed Dr. Cook and Mr. Alexander Gale, ministers, and Mr. John Mowatt, ruling elder, a committee "to meet and confer with the committee of the United Synod, or such members thereof as may be able to attend during the present Session . . . with a view of ascertaining more precisely on what terms the proposed incorporation [of the members of the United Synod in the Synod of Canada] may be accomplished, and of obtaining such information in regard to the matter as may be considered necessary." The Clerk was instructed "to write to Messrs. Smart and Boyd, communicating the foregoing resolution and appointment, and inviting their attendance at Kingston as soon as possible." These ministers came at once, with Messrs. Matthew McIntosh, of Prescott, and John McCrady, of Brockville, ruling elders; and the four, as a committee representing the United Synod, proposed terms of union in writing to the committee of the Synod of Canada. The original document is preserved. Its tenor may be inferred from the following extract from the Minutes of the Synod of Canada:

"Dr. Cook reported verbally that the Committee had had a conference with the Rev. Messrs. Smart and Boyd and two ruling elders, on the part of the United Synod, and that it appeared to the Committee to be the view of these gentlemen, that the United Synod was not disposed to join the Synod of this Church *except as an independent body*, and without presenting any documents which the members of this Synod should not also be bound to present to them."

To these terms, the Synod of Canada declined to accede, but appointed the Commission of Synod to continue negotiations, resolving "meanwhile, to receive such ministers of the United Synod as present to the Presbyteries of this Church the necessary credentials of ordination and character, and who, with their congregations, give adherence to the formulas of the Church of Scotland." So both Synods maintained the same ground as at the first, not even the

love of money bringing either of them to make concessions to the other. It is an interesting fact, however, that there was "a respectable minority" in the Synod of Canada in favour of immediate union, and that Mr. Wm. Bell seconded a motion that "the proposed union . . . be forthwith carried into effect, upon the production on the part of the latter [the United Synod] of an attested roll of the ministers now in regular standing in their body." Mr. Bell had forgotten his grievances in his desire for that general Presbyterian union in Canada, for which he had laboured and prayed, during many long years of waiting.

#### THE COMMITTEES AT WORK.

On the 18th day of March, 1840, Messrs. King and McClatchey, representing the committee of the United Synod, and Messrs. William Rintoul, Robert Murray and Andrew Bell, representing the Commission of the Synod of Canada, held a joint meeting at Oakville. After long and serious deliberation, a series of five resolutions were *unanimously* adopted, and arrangements were made for their transmission for consideration to the several Presbyteries of both Synods. The first of these resolutions "That the 'roll of the United Synod, duly attested . . . shall be received as satisfactory evidence of the character and standing of the members appearing on said roll,' seems to have conceded nearly all for which the United Synod had contended.

#### ACTION OF THE UNITED SYNOD.

At the last meeting of the United Synod at Demorestville, June 20th, 1840, upon consideration of the report of the Committee on Union, the following action, substantially affirming the resolutions of the joint committee meeting at Oakland, was taken:

"After mature deliberation on the subject of a Union with the Synod of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, the Synod being deeply impressed with the sense of the importance and beneficial effects that would arise from the said Union in promoting the peace and prosperity of the Redeemer's kingdom in this colony, were unanimous in adopting the following as the basis of a Union:

I. That a certified copy of the Roll of the United Synod be presented to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, exhibiting the order in which the members entered the Synod.

II. That the ministers of the United Synod, before taking their seat, either in the Synod of Canada, or Presbyteries, will sign the usual formula for ministers of the Church of Scotland.

III. That the Synod of Canada will in no manner interfere with the Government allowance, as now and heretofore received by the members of the United Synod, until other arrangements are made by the Government for the whole Synod.

IV. That ministers coming from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and having received a collegiate education, and otherwise qualified, will be admissible into said Synod.

V. That after the Roll of the United Synod is added to the Roll of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, the Synod as thus constituted will attach the members of the United Synod to their respective Presbyteries.

#### UNION ACCOMPLISHED.

This action, certified by Joseph Anderson, Moderator, and William Smart, Stated Clerk, with a copy of the Roll of the United Synod, similarly certified, and a letter officially signed by the same parties, was presented, in due time, to Rev. Robert McGill, Moderator of the Synod of Canada, by Messrs. King, McClatchey and Johnson. At a meeting of the latter Synod held at Toronto, commencing July 2nd, 1840, these several documents, with the resolutions of the joint meeting of Committees at Oakland, and the reports of favourable action thereon by the Presbyteries of Glengarry, Hamilton, Bathurst, Kingston and Toronto, were presented and the following action was taken, viz.:

"It was moved by Mr. Stark of Dundas, seconded by Mr. Murray of Oakville, that the Synod, feeling deeply, according to their often repeated declarations, the desirableness and importance of union among Presbyterians, with a view to the interests of Religion and the Church of God in the Province, rejoice at the spirit which has been manifested by the United Synod, in the documents transmitted by them, and with reference to former and long continued inquiries . . . on the subject, resolve to receive the attested Roll of the United Synod, now presented, as evidence of the regular ministerial standing of the ministers whose names appear thereon, and to add the said names, as they hereby do, to the Roll of this Synod, in terms of the first, second and fifth of the series of resolutions passed by the United Synod and now presented to this Synod; and further, to add the said names to the Rolls of the respective Presbyteries of this Synod, within whose bounds they severally reside, according to the following arrangement, and enjoin said Presbyteries to receive said ministers respectively upon their signing the usual formula for ministers of the Church of Scotland, viz.:—William Smart, Brockville, to the Presbytery of Bathurst; Robert Boyd, Prescott, to the Presbytery of Bathurst; William King, Nelson, to the Presbytery of Hamilton; John Gemmel, Lanark, to the Presbytery of Bathurst; Robert Lyle,

Finch, to the Presbytery of Glengarry; John Bryning, Mount Pleasant, to the Presbytery of Hamilton; George McClatchey, Clinton, to the Presbytery of Hamilton; James Rogers, Demorestville, to the Presbytery of Kingston; Thomas Johnson, Chinguacousy, to the Presbytery of Toronto; Joseph Anderson, South Gower, to the Presbytery of Bathurst; James Douglass, Cavan, to the Presbytery of Kingston; James Cairns, no charge; John Dickey, Williamburg, to the Presbytery of Glengarry; Samuel Porter, Trafalgar, to the Presbytery of Toronto; Alexander Lewis, Mono, to the Presbytery of Toronto; Isaac Purkis, Onabruk, to the Presbytery of Glengarry; Daniel W. Eastman, Grimsby (township), to the Presbytery of Hamilton, and James McAuley, Probationer."

A dilatory motion, in amendment, was made by Dr. Mathieson and seconded by Rev. Thomas Alexander, but it received but three affirmative votes. The original motion of Mr. Stark was then put and carried by a vote of thirty-five to three, those voting in the negative being Dr. Mathieson and Messrs. Alexander and McIntosh.

And so, the long-looked-for Union was, at last, happily accomplished, and Messrs. Ferguson, A. Bell, George, McMillan, W. Bell and McDowall cordially welcomed to the Synod of Canada, the ministers from whom they had seceded a few years before. Past misunderstandings and irritations were forgotten as they met again "Brethren beloved in the Lord." And thus ended the history of the pioneer Presbyterian organization in Canada, as a distinct organic body; but its influence is still felt for good, and its memory will be cherished by many generations of loyal Presbyterians in the Dominion.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES.

Of the seventeen names added to the roll of the Synod of Canada by this Union, only one—that of Rev. William Smart—is recognized as having been continuously connected with the pioneer organizations from the beginning. He was Presbytery Clerk at Cornwall, January, 1818, and "Stated Clerk" of Synod at Demorestville, June, 1840. Dr. Boyd was next in seniority and persistency, having been ordained at Prescott, February 2nd, 1821, and never having withdrawn. Under the arrangement for Union, Messrs. Smart and Boyd formally united with the Presbytery of Bathurst, at Perth, August 19th, 1840. They both, however, withdrew from it and from the Synod of Canada before the Disruption in 1844, and joined in the "Free Church" movement afterwards. Mr. Porter declining to "accept the situation," connected himself with the "United Secession" Synod, but, after the Disruption his name appears, for the first time, on the roll of the Synod of Canada, when eight of the eleven members of the "Kirk" Presbytery of Toronto were former members of the United Synod. Only two of the seventeen are now known to be living—Rev. Duncan McMillan, at Komoka, Ontario, and Rev. James Rogers, at Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Both of them would confer a favour upon the readers of THE PRESBYTERIAN by furnishing for publication some recollections of their pioneer associates, and some illustrative incidents of their pioneer work.

#### THANKS FOR FAVOURS RECEIVED.

In bringing to a close these imperfect sketches of the Pioneer Canadian Presbytery and the Church Courts deriving succession from it, the writer deems it a privilege to return his sincere thanks for valuable assistance in his search for information, and for the kindly expressions of sympathy without which he would have found it difficult to overcome the embarrassments and remove the obstacles which continually hindered the progress of his work. He has been especially indebted to Rev. Duncan McMillan and Rev. James Rogers for patient submission to persistent interrogation by letter, and for full and satisfactory answers to the questions propounded; to Rev. George Bell, LL.D., of Walkerton, and Robert Bell, Esq., of Carleton Place, for numerous books and documents left by their father, the Rev. William Bell; to Rev. John Burton of Belleville, and Rev. H. Gracey of Gananoque, for similar documents and numerous letters left by Rev. William Smart and Rev. Dr. Boyd; to Rev. Daniel Paterson of St. Andrew's, P.Q., for letters and documents of great interest and importance, from the library of the late Rev. Archibald Henderson; and to Rev. Robert Wallace of Toronto, Rev. Professor McKerras of Kingston, and Rev. J. G. Murray of Grimsby, for copies of printed minutes of the United Presbytery and the United Synod, and for personal aid by correspondence and otherwise. The writer has been greatly aided in other parts of his work by ministers and laymen who will be gratefully mentioned in future articles.