

McPherson, Donald Fraser, Esq., was called to preside, and Mr. Jno. Robson appointed Secretary, when a free and cordial discussion took place, regarding the propriety, and the attainableness of union between the Churches to which they respectively belong, when the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Moved by James Bell, U. P. Ch., seconded by Alex. Monroe, F. Ch.,

I. That this meeting rejoices in the acknowledged fact, that the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the United Presbyterian Church in Canada agree so fully in their profession of Scriptural truth and order; and in their efforts for the advancement of the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, in this new and rapidly advancing Country.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. McPherson, seconded by John Robb, U. P. Ch.,

II. That this meeting firmly believes, that the separation of Churches, so closely affiliated, involves the violation of the law of Christ; tarnishes their profession; grieves the hearts of good men; presents a stumbling block to inquiring minds; and furnishes matter of reproach to the profane and impious; and thus grieves the Holy Spirit, and leads to the withholding of His gracious influences.

Moved by Rev. Mr. Skinner, seconded by Wm. Colvin, F. Ch.,

III. That we assuredly believe, that the union of these Churches would involve no dereliction of Scriptural principle, on either side; whilst union in the bonds of truth and love, and peace and purity, would tend to the edifying of the body of Christ; and, owned by the Great Head of the Church, would secure to her Spiritual health and energy, holiness and joy; and so prepare her to exert an enlarged and powerful external influence for good; as well as draw out the thanksgivings of many, in the abundant reception of promised blessings.

Moved by Donald Fraser, F. Ch., seconded by Mr. Waters, Student in Theology, U. P. Ch.,

IV. That the members of this meeting agree, to act towards each other, in all respects, in Christian love; viewing this as necessary in their intercourse and discussions, in relation to a Scriptural union, as well as to their usefulness in their own vicinity.

Moved by Mr. James Frazer, Catechist, U. P. Ch., seconded by Angus McTavish, F. Ch.,

V. That it is hereby recommended, that members of our respective congregations do, as often as they shall find it convenient, associate together for prayer and religious conference; and that the respective Sessions do open up mutual intercourse, by delegation or otherwise; and that all interested do bring this matter fervently before the Throne of Grace, that it may please the great Lord and King of Zion, to direct and prosper this object; and, in His own good time, bring about a union of the Churches, in truth and peace; and, still more, render them instruments in His hand, of diffusing blessings through this land—through the world, and through the generations which shall yet be born.

Moved by John Williams, U. P. Ch., seconded by Alexander Clark, F. Ch.,

VI. That a Committee be appointed to draw up Petitions, corresponding with Resolutions I., II. and III., to be in due order transmitted to our Superior Courts, praying them to continue to take into their serious consideration, the subject of the union of these Churches; and to endeavor, speedily and happily, to consummate this object on Scriptural grounds.

Moved by John Sinclair, U. P. Ch., seconded by Duncan McBain, F. Ch.,

VII. That a Committee of Correspondence, on union, be appointed, with power to add to their number, to correspond with any other committees who may require it of them. (This committee consists of Rev. Messrs. McPherson, township of Williams, and Skinner, township of London, joint conveners; and Messrs. James Fraser, Donald Fraser, William Wood and William White.)

Moved by A. D. Garden, U. P. Ch., seconded by John McDonald, F. Ch.,

VIII. That these Resolutions be inserted in the *Canadian United Presbyterian Magazine* and in the *Ecclesiastical and Missionary Record of the Free Church* and also printed in circular form, and two copies sent to each minister of our respective Churches.—The carrying out of this Resolution to be intrusted to the Committee of Correspondence.

JOHN W. ROBSON,

Secretary.

DONALD FRASER,

Chairman.

A praiseworthy emulation seems to be animating the friends of union throughout the province, as evinced by the number of efficient measures adopted to promote the attainment of the object, so fervently to be desired. For the consideration of individuals, and as eminently worthy of imitation, attention is now called to the

#### WOODSTOCK CIRCULAR.

REV. SIR:—A few individuals sincerely desirous to see the divisions amongst Presbyterians in Canada put an end to, and a practical exemplification of "the faith that worketh by love," in the union of these who belong to the same father-land, believe in the same doctrines, and profess (with very slight modifications) to adhere to the same standards—have taken the liberty to forward you a copy of Sir George Sinclair's letter addressed to the "Non-established Presbyterian Churches in Scotland," to which they beg your earnest and prayerful attention; and they would press on your consideration, that if its suggestions are applicable to Scotland, they are so in a far higher degree to Canada.

They would also most respectfully and in the spirit of Christian charity, call your attention to the following facts:

1st. There is a large extent of country in rear of the older settlements, with a numerous population, a large proportion of which are Presbyterians, and where there are Villages, Townships, and even counties without a settled Presbyterian minister—or indeed an ordained pastor of any denomination.

2nd. There are other towns and villages where there are two, three, and even four Presbyterian Ministers doing the work which one or at most two would be amply sufficient for. Now is this right? does not the scope of St. Paul's words to the Corinthians in the first chapter of his first Epistle apply here? Is it right, is it in the spirit of the New Testament, to a difference of opinion on abstract questions involving no point of practical duty, and which so far as salvation is concerned, we are bound to believe are non-essential—to become the means of keeping so many of our countrymen from enjoying the ordinances of our Church, or listening to the sound of a preached Gospel, a privation attended by disastrous results, the magnitude of which it is impossible to estimate on this side of eternity. We trust, Reverend Sir, to be excused the liberty we take in pressing on your attention at this momentous period, your deep responsibility in this matter, and beg to subscribe ourselves in all Christian Charity.

Yours in the Spirit of Catholic Christianity.

A FEW MEMBERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.  
Woodstock, 9th March, 1855.