

within which our demands and expectations ought to be confined. Our circumstances are very different from those of the Church at home; but there is abundance of facts to prove that the scholarship of even her students is not uniformly high. To insist on such a thing here, would be altogether suicidal. Suppose a youth of four or five and twenty is admitted to the Hall, with almost no acquaintance with an inflected language, indeed with any language at all except English—suppose that he immediately becomes a preacher, and is applauded in that capacity and taken out accordingly, frequently in request at an evening party—that he interests himself in the political and other public questions that are astir, and that probably he is withal bent on matrimony—can any thing be more extravagant than to suppose that he is ever to become an adept in the *minutiæ* of Greek and Latin? Apart from all other considerations, his mind is ten years past the period for beginning the mastery of a Lexicon and Grammar. Nevertheless many well known cases sufficiently show, that it is quite possible that he may, with such cultivation as his case admits of, and proper diligence on his own part, turn out, under God's blessing, a respectable and useful Minister of the Gospel.

I am, &c.

R.

CALVINISM AND PRESBYTERIANISM, A PROPER BASIS FOR UNION.

To the Editor of the Canadian U. P. Magazine.

SIR,—I doubt not many of your readers are looking forward with prayerful anxiety to the approaching meeting of Synod, especially with a view to the great question of Union. I do not regret that for some time past, that has not been a subject of discussion in your pages. For I doubt if, in that way, much good could have been expected. It is far from my intention to introduce any argumentation respecting it at present. My chief object is to draw attention to a fact which I have learnt with high satisfaction, and which, I hope, will exert a favourable influence on the junction of the two Churches in this country, at a very distant period. I refer to the speech delivered by the Rev. William Cunningham, D.D., Principal of New College, Edinburgh, before the Synod of the English Presbyterian Church at its late meeting at Sunderland, in connection with the celebration of the Tricentenary of the Reformation in Scotland. The Doctor openly and boldly avowed his conviction that Calvinism in doctrine, and Presbyterianism in government, are the proper basis on which Churches may not only recognise one another, but actually incorporate. He declared also that by Calvinism, he meant the great leading features of the system, to the exclusion of those minor points about which Calvinists may differ from one another.* I cannot but regard this as very significant and important; and I entertain a sanguine expectation that Dr. Cunningham's view will be realised. The

* Our readers will find the part of the speech referred to, in our Report of the Synod, in another part of this number.—ED.