

amendment of Mr. Middlemiss carried. Thereafter this amendment was put against the original motion, when the motion was carried, and the Synod in terms of it accepted the article as it stands.

With reference to the note appended to the fourth article by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church, the following motions were submitted:—

1. It was moved by Mr. Topp, and seconded—That inasmuch as this Synod does not deem it necessary to append any note as explanatory of the views expressed in the 4th article, the Synod do resolve to call the attention of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church to this matter, and to consider whether they shall not see it consistent with their duty to remove the same.

2. It was moved by Mr. Stark, and seconded—That this Synod does not deem any note necessary to the interpretation of the 4th article, and therefore do not receive or regard it as any part of the Basis of Union.

3. It was moved by Mr. Kemp, and seconded—That the Synod does not consider the note appended to article 4th, as a necessary part of the Basis of Union, and, inasmuch as its terms are liable to misconception, and cannot be accepted by this Synod, respectfully request to the United Presbyterian Synod the propriety of withdrawing said note. On a division being called for, Mr. Kemp's amendment and Mr. Stark's were put against each other, when Mr. Kemp's was carried. Thereafter Mr. Topp's motion and Mr. Kemp's amendment were put to the house, when Mr. Kemp's amendment carried, and was adopted as the finding of the Synod.

At the evening diet on Wednesday, the following motions, with reference to the Basis of Union, were submitted:—

(1.) It was moved by Mr. Wilson, and seconded—That while this Synod rejoices in the progress made in finding a satisfactory basis of union, and in the prospect thus afforded of its speedy consummation; yet, as this Synod has no reliable information from the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, as to the province of the Civil Magistrate in the practical application of the general principle of Christ's Headship over the nations, contained in the fourth article of the proposed basis of union, and as such information is deemed necessary in order to a harmonious and honorable union, appoint a committee to confer with said Synod as to its views on this practical question.

(2.) It was moved in amendment by Mr. R. F. Burns, and seconded—That inasmuch as by the almost unanimous decision of last year, the Synod stands committed to embodying in the basis of union simply the grand principle of national responsibility to Christ, they are not prepared at this advanced stage of the negotiation, to burden the basis with an enumeration of the varied practical applications of that principle which have been already fully and satisfactorily discussed by the united committees, and respecting which there is, on good grounds, understood to be substantial harmony between both churches. The Synod, therefore, proceed to the consideration of the fifth article.

(3.) It was also moved in amendment by Mr. Middlemiss, seconded by Mr. McKim,—That before proceeding to the consideration of the next article of the basis, the Synod appoint a committee to draw up an article embodying the views of this Synod, in reference to the province of the civil magistrate, with instructions to report at the next adjournment.

The amendment by Mr. Burns, and that by Mr. Middlemiss, having been put against each other, that by Mr. Burns carried. Thereafter, the motion of Mr. Wilson, and the amendment by Mr. Burns, were put to the house, when a majority supported Mr. Burns' amendment.

The Synod accordingly proceeded to the consideration of the remaining articles in the Basis of Union. Article 4th was read and agreed to. It is in the following terms:—

Of Church Government.—That the system of polity established in the Westminster Form of Presbyterian Church Government, in so far as it declares a plurality of Elders for each congregation, the official equality of Presbyters without any offices in the Church superior to said Presbyters, and the unity of the church, in a due subordination of a smaller part to a larger, and of the larger to the whole, is the government of this church, and is in the features of it therein set forth, believed by this church to be founded on and agreeable to the word of God.

Article 6th was read and agreed to. It is as follows:—

Of Worship.—That the ordinances of worship shall be administered in this church as they have heretofore been, by the respective bodies of which it is composed, in a general accordance with the directions contained in the Westminster Directory of Worship.

Thereafter it was moved by Mr. McLaren, and duly seconded, that the Basis of Union as a whole be now approved, and transmitted to Presbyteries and Sessions, and that Presbyteries and Sessions be instructed to report to Synod through the Committee on Union on or before the first day of November.

It was moved in amendment by Dr. Bayne, seconded by Dr. Willis:

That inasmuch as the basis now under consideration contains no statement on the leading applications of the principle contained in article fourth, or on the Province of the civil magistrate, within which he is to serve and confess Christ—subjects on which unsound and unscriptural views are often held by those who admit the aforesaid principle itself—a union on such a basis would virtually involve a compromise of principles for which it has been the distinction and glory of this Church that it has hitherto contended.

The motion and amendment having been put to the house, the motion was carried by a large majority; whereupon Dr. Bayne dissented in his own name, and in name of such as might adhere to him, for reasons to be in due time given. At the following diet, the following members gave in their names as adhering to Dr. Bayne's dissent, viz:—Dr. Willis, Dr. Irvine, Messrs. Smellie, D. Gordon, Wilson, Middlemiss, McKim, Gielke, and McMullen, Ministers; and Mr. Lutz, Elder. Reasons of dissent were also given in and read, and referred to a Committee, consisting of Messrs. Topp, Ure, Ross, McLaren, Kemp, and McMurrich. Mr. Topp, Convener, to prepare answers. This Committee was afterwards appointed a Commission with Synodical power to prepare answers to the reasons of dissent.

Both the reasons and answers will be in due time published, and transmitted to Presbyteries and Sessions.

TERCENTENARY OF THE REFORMATION.

The following Resolution was adopted with reference to the tercentenary of the Reformation:

That having regard to the work of God, in the Reformation from Popery, of which the Protestant Countries generally have reaped precious fruits for three centuries past; and especially sympathizing with the proposal to celebrate in some appropriate manner the meeting of the first Reforming Assembly held in Edinburgh in the 1560, the Synod agree at its next meeting, in 1860, to include a special reference to this matter of interesting remembrance in its devotional exercises or arrangements of business—in the meantime recommending its ministers, either simultaneously or

on the days found most suitable in their several localities, to call the attention of their flocks to the blessings of the Reformation, and the responsibilities connected with the possession of them; also to appoint a committee meanwhile to confer with committees of other religious bodies, in case it should seem for edification to unite on some method of manifesting simultaneously their grateful sense of the great deliverance wrought for our common parent land at the Reformation era; and further, inasmuch as a meeting is proposed to be held in Edinburgh in May next, in connection with this object, at which the attendance of delegates or representatives of churches at a distance is invited, the Synod authorize the above committee to request some father or brother, or fathers and brethren who may be in Britain about that time, on their own account, to represent this Synod at the said convention or assembly, such representative or representatives being expected to act as far as possible in co-operation with the committee.

The following committee was appointed viz: Messrs. Topp, Gregg, Inglis, Dr. Irvine, Dr. Bayne, Dr. Willis, Messrs. Kemp, Wardrope, Scott, Young, W. B. Clark and Dr. Boyd, Ministers; and Messrs. McMurrich, McAuley, Court, Elders.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN U.S.—(N.S.)

Dr. Willis, Convener of the Committee appointed to consider and report as to correspondence with the Presbyterian Church in the United States, (N. S.) reported that after conference with Mr. McLeod, the Deputy of the Church, referred to with the view of ascertaining the views of the Church he represents, in the course of which conference Mr. McLeod had replied to all their questions with the greatest candour, the Committee came to the conclusion, that while much of the common truth was held by that Church, its profession of doctrine was in some important points different from that of this Church, not so much on sovereign effecting grace, or faith, or the work of the Spirit, as in the extent of the atonement, and the imputation of guilt and righteousness in the Adamic and Christian covenants; that in respect of many zealous efforts to extend the common cause of Christianity and especially in having sought to discourage the practice of slave holding in members of the Church, the Assembly represented by Mr. McLeod deserves the interest and sympathy of churches such as ours; at the same time, as this Synod is not yet in the habit of appointing delegates to Churches in America generally, the committee is not prepared, until the question shall have been considered comprehensively in all its relation, to recommend a formal recognition in that way of one particular branch of American Presbyterianism.

It was agreed to sustain the Report, and declare in terms thereof.

REFERENCE FROM PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA.

The Synod took up a reference from the Presbytery of Ottawa, involving the question whether the Presbytery had power to erase a minute of session after said minute had been attested by the Presbytery. On motion made and seconded, it was agreed to sustain reference, and declare that the Presbytery may, on error shown, act as they may judge best in such a case, subject to the review of the superior court.

NEXT MEETING OF SYNOD.

On Wednesday evening the Synod agreed to determine the time and place of the next ordinary meeting of Synod. After full consideration it was agreed that the next ordinary meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada shall take place in the city of Hamilton, and within Knox's Church there,