

would make me desirous to be careful, as this overture proposes that we should not enter on any Union now proposed, (that is, with other *dissenting* Presbyterians), under any conditions, whether expressed or only implied, that might exclude the consideration of *farther Union* (that is, with the Church of Scotland), should any feasible proposal to that effect ever be submitted to us." Again he declares, "We must guard against people saying that the Free Church has abandoned her claims of right, abandoned all hope of ever being reconciled to the Established Church, and that the Free Church has made up her mind that henceforth, and in all time coming, the orbits of the two Churches shall be entirely separate." The Rev. Mr. Fraser of St. Bernard's supported the overture. He remarked: "Probably many were not aware how truly this question had taken an historic course. It would be unworthy of the Free Church of Scotland if she bound herself not to meet the ministers of the Established Church at the standpoint of the Disruption." The Rev. Mr. Balfour of Holyrood expressed similar opinions, stating that the overture commended itself to him as one which ought to be transmitted to the General Assembly. Dr. Candlish having vacated the Moderator's chair, stated his views. The speech of that subtle and skilful politician, the acknowledged leader of the body, was characterized by great caution and moderation. Yet he admitted "he could imagine a strong case made out to shew that we should call a halt here (that is, in the negotiations with the other denominations of Seceders) and pause, and consider the position of the Established Church." The result of the discussion was, that an overture by Mr. McKenzie of Tolbooth Church, somewhat less boldly expressed, yet maintaining the principle of Dr. Blaikie's overture, was substituted for the latter, and unanimously agreed to. Mr. McKenzie's overture provides that, in respect to the proposed Union with the other *dissenting* Presbyterians, "no decisive action be taken in the meantime."

Whether these striking indications of friendly sympathy between the mother Church and her spiritual daughter shall lead to the result pointed at, is a question which it would be hard to determine. There can be no doubt that the decision of the Cardross case has convinced the more enlightened members of the Free Church that there is fully as much freedom within the Establishment as without. The Scotch Episcopal body in Scotland, by a recent Act of Parliament, have been taken under the shadow of the English Church, and henceforth Episcopacy may be looked upon as a dangerous power in Scotland, ever tending towards aggression. This is probably another element in the great reunion movement on the part of the two leading sections of Presbyterianism in Scotland. Scotland never could and never will tolerate

Episcopacy. She is Presbyterian to the core, and henceforth we hope to see the new idea advancing to realization, under the banner-motto, "A National Presbyterianism." Why should not we, the Presbyterians of Nova Scotia, strive after unity of organization and action? We have much stronger reasons for doing so than our brethren in Scotland.

It ought to be stated, that, in quoting from the speeches, the sentences *within brackets* are inserted by the present writer for the sake of explanation.

W. M. P.

Albion Mines, May, 1866.

—o—

AWFUL VISITATION.—A correspondent sends us the following remarkable narrative:—"A melancholy instance of the danger of taking God's name in vain has occurred at Brighton. A few days since, as some boys were playing together in a court leading out of Edward Street, in that town, a dispute took place between them about the number of 'notches' one of them, a lad named Richards, had made whilst playing at 'cat and dog.' Richards declared that he had scored more than his companions gave him credit for, and high words and bad language were indulged in on both sides. At length Richards flew into a violent passion and exclaimed, 'May God strike me blind if I have not made more than 20.' He had scarcely uttered the adjuration when he threw up his arms and exclaimed 'Oh, I can't see,' and begged of one of his companions to lead him home. This was immediately done; and on examination it was found that a thick film had overspread his eyes, completely obstructing the sight. In this pitiable condition he has remained ever since, and there is little or no hope of his ever recovering his sight. The affair has caused great excitement in the neighbourhood in which the occurrence took place. Richards is only thirteen years of age."—*Morning Post.*

—o—

THE CHURCH IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Meeting of the Pictou Presbytery.

A *pro re nata* meeting of this court was held in St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, on the 9th ult., Sederunt: Rev. Robert McCunn, (Moderator,) Revds. Messrs. Herdman, McKay, Pollok, McGregor and Philip.

The subject of colonial aid in general, and in reference to River John Congregation in particular, was fully considered. The request of the deputation from said congregation, that this Presbytery would continue to solicit from the Colonial Committee a small annual grant to assist them, was favourably entertained. The Presbytery has much pleasure in giving them every possible assistance and encouragement. In proportion to their number and circumstances, they do as well as many, and better than most of our congregations. It is abund-