

bring down the history from the Union in 1847, to the present day. Our materials for this are not ample, but having been favoured, through the instrumentality of a dear brother in the ministry in Scotland,* with a regular and complete set of the printed minutes of the home Synod, from the time of the Union downward, we shall endeavour, from these materials chiefly, to give a sketch of its history during this last period.

The Union which took place between the United Secession and Relief Churches, on the 13th of May, 1847, is an event most memorable in the history of religion in Scotland, and in all other Countries where our standard has been reared. It made no alteration on the creed and practice of these Churches, from what they were when apart, but it materially increased their strength and efficiency. It obliterated the party distinctions which had hitherto characterized them. It blended their interests in one common constitution. And, like the confluence of two great rivers which had widened, and deepened and approximated till they met and commingled, continuing to follow on, and still becoming broader and broader, and increasingly adapted for commercial navigation, as well as for fertilizing and beautifying the territories through which it passes; so these Churches, now one, were prepared for extending their benevolent activities far and wide, and had an impulse given them which both qualified and inclined them to carry the glad tidings of salvation, with more zeal and success than even before, into the dark regions of the earth.

We can easily conceive how the members of Court after witnessing the delightful scenes of the Union, retired to rest, from the interesting excitement of that day, under a consciousness of having accomplished a noble ecclesiastical achievement; and how they returned to their meeting next day, with earnest and prayerful zeal to be active and faithful on the more extended field which, in the providence of God, now presented itself, and invited their labours of love.

On Friday, the 14th May, the Synod met in Bristo Street Church, Edinburgh, and was constituted by the Rev. Dr. Kidston, Moderator. The Roll was called, consisting of four hundred and seventy-seven Ministers, of which three hundred and sixty-two had belonged to the United Secession, and one hundred and fifteen to the Relief Synod. The minutes of the transactions of the preceding memorable day were then read, and the Court proceeded to business.

First, They agreed to publish the proceedings relating to Union, namely, the sermons preached at the opening of each of the Synods immediately before the actual Union, a narrative of facts leading to and terminating in Union, and the speeches and addresses when the Union had taken place. Next, they appointed their five Professors, three of whom belonged to the Secession, and two to the Relief, to the same office in the United Church. Their Synod Clerks, their Missionary Agent, their Treasurer, and their Legal Advisers, were also all re-appointed.

The name by which the United Church should be designated, and which had been left undetermined, was now taken into consideration; and it was soon unanimously agreed, that the Church under their inspection, should be called, **THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, and the name of the

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