

that an extract of this testimony to Dr. Bayne's memory, be transmitted to the Kirk Session of Galt, and to his mourning friends, with the assurance of the Synod's sympathy both in their sorrow and their joy—their sorrow, while bowing with reverence to the will of God in the bereavement which the Synod feels in common with them; and their joy, as feeling assured along with them that this eminent servant of Christ has entered into his glorious rest.

#### UNION WITH THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The Report of the Committee on Union was presented by Rev. R. Ure. The report referred to the action taken by Presbyteries and Sessions, and stated that all the Presbyteries of the Church, and eighty-eight out of ninety-five sessions that had reported, had approved of the Basis of Union. It was then moved by the Rev. A. Topp, seconded by Rev. J. McTavish,

"That the Synod receive and adopt the report of the Committee on Union now presented and read, from which it appears that the basis of union approved by last Synod has been approved by all the Presbyteries of the Church, and by 88 out of 95 Sessions sending returns. The Synod further instruct Rev. Professor Young and Rev. Mr. Ure, to convey the said basis, with the decision of the Synod on the same, and a statement of the above facts, to the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, now in session in this city, with the cordial salutations of this Synod."

It was moved in amendment by Principal Wilks, seconded by Rev. G. Smellie:—

"That the finding on the basis now arrived at, as the result of the transmission of that document to Presbyteries, be communicated with all respect to the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, but, inasmuch as there is a doubt remaining on some minds among us as to the exact sense attached respectively to some clauses in the basis by the two Synods, it be indicated to the other Synod as the desire of this Court that advantage be now taken of the opportunity providentially afforded by the presence of the two Synods in one city for a friendly and brotherly conference, in the hope that by a Christian and frank explanation, any remaining difficulties in the way of the union may be satisfactorily removed."

After full and lengthened discussion, in the course of which many members of Synod expressed their views, the vote was taken on Thursday evening, when there voted for the motion by Mr. Topp, 121, and for the amendment by Principal Wilks, 37.

To give our readers a connected view of the proceedings on the subject of Union, we may observe that on Saturday morning, a deputation from the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, consisting of Rev. Dr. W. Taylor, and Messrs. Ormiston and Cayen appeared before the Synod for the purpose of laying on the table the Basis of Union as amended and approved by them. From the documents submitted, and the addresses of the deputies, it appeared that the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church had, in accordance with the request of this Synod, removed the vote appended to the 4th Article of the Basis, and had added the following words:—"it being understood that, in the application of the doctrine of this article, mutual forbearance shall be exercised."

After hearing the deputies, it was unanimously resolved, that the Synod express

their great pleasure in seeing these brethren, and cordially reciprocate the brotherly affection which they have expressed in behalf of the Synod represented by them, and request them to convey to their brethren the expression of this Synod's esteem and affection."

It was also agreed that the consideration of the Basis of Union, as received from the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church should be taken up on Monday afternoon.

On Monday afternoon, accordingly, the Synod proceeded to take up the Basis of Union as received from the United Presbyterian Synod. The discussion had simply reference to the fourth article in the Basis, all the others having been approved of as transmitted by this Synod.

For the convenience of our readers, we subjoin the Basis of Union together with the note which the United Presbyterian Synod agreed to remove, and the addition made by them to the 4th Article:—

**I. Of Holy Scripture.**—That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being the inspired Word of God, are the supreme and infallible rule of faith and life.

**II. Of the Subordinate Standards.**—That the Westminster Confession of Faith, with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, are received by this Church as her subordinate Standards.

But whereas certain sections of the said Confession of Faith, which treat of the power or duty of the civil magistrate, have been objected to, as teaching principles adverse both to the right of private judgment in religious matters, and to the prerogatives which Christ has vested in his Church, it is to be understood:—

1. That no interpretation or reception of these sections is held by this Church which would interfere with the fullest forbearance as to any difference of opinion which may prevail on the question of the endowment of the Church by the State.

2. That no interpretation, or reception of these sections is required by this Church which would accord to the State any authority to violate that liberty of conscience and right of judgment which are asserted in chap. xx, sec. 2 of the Confession, and, in accordance with the statements of which this Church holds that every person ought to be at full liberty to search the Scriptures, without let or hindrance; provided, that no one is to be allowed, under the pretext of following the dictates of conscience, to interfere with the peace and good order of society.

3. That no interpretation or reception of these sections is required by this Church which would admit of any interference on the part of the State with the spiritual independence of the Church, as set forth in chap. xxx of the Confession.

**III. Of the Headship of Christ over the Church.**—That the Lord Jesus Christ is the only King and Head of his Church; that he has made her free from all external or secular authority in the administration of her affairs, and that she is bound to assert and defend this liberty to the utmost, and ought not to enter into such engagements with any party as would be prejudicial thereto.

**IV. Of the Headship of Christ over the Nations, and the duty of the Civil Magistrate.**—That the Lord Jesus Christ, as Mediator, is invested with universal sovereignty, and is therefore King of Nations, and that all men in every capacity and relation, are bound to obey his will as revealed in his Word, and particularly

that the civil magistrate (including under that term all who are in any way concerned in the Legislative or Administrative action of the State) is bound to regulate his official procedure as well as his personal conduct by the revealed will of Christ, it being understood that in the application of the doctrine of this article mutual forbearance shall be exercised.)

**V. 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 the 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.

**VI. 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.

**NOTE.**—That the article having relation to Christ's Headship over the nations, and the duty of the civil magistrate has always been, and is, one of the things most surely believed and most firmly maintained by the United Presbyterian Church, while at the same time she has constantly and carefully guarded against the practical inference drawn from it by some, that Christ as King of Nations delegates his power to earthly Kings—that they are in any sense his vicegerents, or that magisterial interference in matters purely of religious nature is a medium through which Christ exercises the authority, with which, as King of Nations, he is invested.

Several motions were submitted by members of Synod. It was moved by Mr. Gav-

Allan, seconded by Mr. A. Barclay, That the Synod adopt the Basis of Union, as adopted by the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church and transmitted to this Court."

This motion was, with permission of the House, withdrawn in favor of the following motion by Prof. Young, seconded by the Rev. S. C. Fraser:—

"The Synod having taken into consideration the basis of union as sent down by the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, reject to find that the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church has agreed to drop the note formerly appended to the 4th article, and that the great principle that the Lord Jesus Christ, as Mediator, is invested with universal sovereignty, and is therefore King of Nations, and that all men, in every capacity and relation, are bound to obey His will as revealed in His Word, and particularly that the civil magistrate (including under that term all who are in any way concerned in the legislative or administrative action of the State) is bound to regulate his official procedure as well as his personal conduct by the revealed will of Christ, is now affirmed by both Synods without reserve and limitation. And whereas the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church has added to the 4th article of the basis as formerly approved by this Synod the words, "it being understood that in the application of the doctrine of this article mutual forbearance shall be exercised," this Synod declares that the standards of the Presbyterian Church of Canada do not profess formally and explicitly to define the manner in which the principle contained in the 4th article is to be applied; and, being persuaded, as the Synod is, that in the event of union there will be found