

Synod ament Union was considered. As regards the first question, it was moved by Rev. T. Sedgewick and seconded by the Rev. H. B. Mackay, that it be answered as follows:—That this Presbytery, without pronouncing an opinion as to the desirability or practicability of a general union of Presbyterians in the Dominion of Canada until the Scheme in its entry be laid before them, would greatly prefer a Union of Presbyterians in the Maritime Provinces in the first instance; and would urge upon the Committee to use their best endeavours for its attainment. It was moved in amendment by the Rev. John Munro, and seconded by Mr. John Mackenzie,—That the Union of the four Presbyterian Churches, under present circumstances is not desirable; 1. Because our Church has not sufficient information as to the nature and advantages of the contemplated Union; 2. Because some of the negotiating Churches have Musical Instruments in Public Worship, which practice was condemned by the Synod of our Church in 1866; 3. Because our Church has not means adequate to uphold a General Assembly. The motion was preferred to the amendment by a vote of six to one.

As regards the same question. It was moved by Rev. T. Sedgewick and seconded by the Rev. J. Watson,—That the Presbytery would prefer the Doctrinal Basis to run somewhat as follows:—The Holy Scriptures to be the Supreme Standard of Faith and Manners, with the Westminster Confession of Faith and a larger and shorter catechisms as the Subordinate Standards—it being understood that the same liberty of opinion as is at present allowed in the negotiating Churches in regard to the power and duty of the Civil Magistrate in matters of religion as set forth in said Confession, be allowed in the United Church. It was moved in amendment by Rev. John Munro, and seconded by Mr. J. Mackenzie,—That the Presbytery is not willing to have the Union carried into effect upon the submitted Basis;

1. Because in said Basis the Westminster Confession of Faith is to be the only Subordinate Standard. The Larger Catechism is excluded, and the Shorter Catechism merely "enjoined as an authoritative exposition of doctrine for the instruction of our people." Whereas in the Basis of Union, 1860, it is declared that the Standards of the United Church shall be the Westminster Confession of Faith with the Catechisms Larger and Shorter. And whereas in the Act of Assembly, 1647, the Confession of Faith is set forth as the chiefest part of the uniformity in religion, and by act of Assembly, 1648, the Larger Catechism is shewn to be a necessary part of uniformity in religion and a rich treasure for increas-

ing knowledge among the people of God, and approved as a part of uniformity. The Shorter Catechism by Act of Assembly of the same year (1648) is also approved as part of the intended uniformity in religion.

2. Because it can be shewn historically that the Confession of Faith with the Catechisms Larger and Shorter constituted for some centuries the Subordinate Standard of the Presbyterian Church.

3. Because in said Basis the power assigned to the Civil Magistrate in matters of religion, is vague, and not sufficiently defined as in the Basis of 1860.

The motion was preferred to the amendment by the same vote as before.

The Clerk reported the result of the Conference between the Rev. R. McCunn and himself as regards Tatamagouche. It was agreed to express approval of his conduct therein.

The next meeting was appointed to be held at Tatamagouche, on the first Tuesday of December next.

Presbytery of Lunenburg and Yarmouth.

This Court met at Shelburne, on Wednesday, 6th September.

To the questions contained in the Synod's remit on Union, the following are its replies:—

1st. This Presbytery regards Union as desirable; but, inasmuch as the details of this subject—such as the position of our Educational Institutions, Missionary operations, and expenses, which according to the present rate of representation in the Canada Assembly would entail a heavy burden on the Church—are so numerous and complicated that we cannot foresee the bearing on several of our schemes. This Presbytery consequently prefers, that the whole matter should, in the first place, be simplified by a previous Union of the sister Churches in these Lower Provinces, as well as of the corresponding bodies in the Upper Provinces, which, if accomplished, would certainly prepare the way for the larger Union, and which, if impracticable, is in the view of this Presbytery, a clear evidence that the churches represented by the Joint Committee are not prepared for Union.

2nd. This Presbytery prefers, that the Basis include the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, in addition to the Confession of Faith, as the Subordinate Standards of the United Church.

The next meeting of Presbytery is appointed to be held at Yarmouth, principally for the visitation of the congregation there, on the second week of November. Rev. Mr. Duff to preach. The week following it will visit the congregations of Barrington