

THE CANADIAN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE

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Miscellaneous Articles.

UNION.

(To the Editor of the Canadian U. P. Magazine.)

Dear Sir,—Several circumstances seem to indicate pleasingly, that this long-talked of Union between the Free and United Presbyterian Churches in Canada, is now really hastening on apace; and every right heart on both sides will say of it, "God speed," for in many respects, "'tis a consummation devoutly to be wished." One of these circumstances is, that of late every number of the Magazines connected with both Churches, "*The Canadian Presbyterian*," and "*The United Presbyterian Magazine*," has contained statements and discussions, on the whole favourable to the desired great object. But two papers in the *Canadian Presbyterian* for October and November, must be allowed to be entitled to a high meed of praise for liberal views, brotherly affection towards us; and noble motives in seeking union. One paper shows how existing hinderances of Union hitherto may be properly got over; the other lays down "principles and terms" on which it may be effected. By the way, all our ministers should read and digest these admirable papers. You will permit me to say, Sir, that in the spirit which they breathe, they are superior to what has lately, at any rate, appeared in our Magazine. They manifest that the writers—and I doubt not that they express the sentiments of a large portion of their brethren,—are truly in earnest about Union; and solicitous for its accomplishment upon fair grounds to which we can have no reasonable objection,—yea, should be ready to advance and join hands, the hearts being joined already. Before taking leave of these papers for the present, it is painful to be constrained to say that, along with others, I have felt mortified and vexed by the contrast between them and a paper which appeared in the *United Presbyterian Magazine* for October; an article, which I dare say, proceeded from no bad design, but was unwisely conceived and expressed; entered into no real argument on the subject, and was fitted not to promote but retard the Union. As to affording it a place in the Magazine, I believe this arose from nothing but a readiness to give utterance to freedom of speech in coming to an understanding with our brethren; but such talking would in quick time put us as far as the poles asunder. It is to be hoped that there will be nothing more of the kind, and that all that shall be spoken, written and printed, will lead on to that unity of brethren which is richly fragrant as the perfume upon the beard of Aaron, the Jewish High Priest, and fertilizing to all that is good as the heavy dew shed from lofty Hermon upon the lower hills of Zion.*

* Our attention has been directed to the article in the *Presbyter*, referred to by our correspondent, and we agree with him generally in the commendation he bestows