

THE
HOME & FOREIGN RECORD
OF THE
CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

No. 7.

JULY, 1875.

Vol. XIV.

CONSUMMATION OF THE UNION.

Long before this number of the RECORD reaches our readers, they will have heard of the important event which took place in Montreal on the 15th June,—the consummation of the Union of four Presbyterian churches hitherto maintaining a distinct position. The consummation of this Union may be truly regarded as one of the most important events that ever took place in Canada. It is true the Union has not brought into one church all the ministers of the four distinct churches. In our own Assembly two brethren, both highly esteemed, felt it to be their duty to oppose the motion to proceed to the consummation of the Union on the basis previously agreed to. We trust, however, that they will not feel it to be necessary to remain permanently in separation from brethren, with whom they have hitherto been in sympathy and in harmony. In the former Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, some brethren have taken a position of separation from the United Church, and in the former Synod of the Maritime Provinces in connection with the Church of Scotland, there are also some who have not come into the Union with their brethren, although in their case it is believed that the separation is but temporary. In the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces there was perfect harmony of feeling and action—not one was left behind. It would have been pleasant had it been so in all the churches; but, as it is, Presbyterianism may be said to be substantially one now throughout the Dominion.

The churches now united,—The Canada Presbyterian Church, The Presbyterian Church of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, and the Presbyterian Church of the Maritime Provinces in connection with the Church of Scotland,—form a body with from 640 to 650 ministers, but we have not the rolls at present so as to give the precise number. The Church is divided into four Synods: 1. The Synod of the Maritime Provinces; 2. The Synod of Montreal and Ottawa; 3. That of Toronto and Kingston; and, 4. That of Hamilton and London. There is, in addition, the Presbytery of Manitoba, with Synodical powers. Eventually, it is likely that there will be a General Assembly of a representative character; but next year the General Assembly, which is appointed to meet in Toronto, will consist of all the ministers and elders on the rolls of the respective Presbyteries.