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Negotiations for union were originated in 1844, immediately after disruption in this Province. Progress was slow and uncertain. Immense prejudice lay in the way. Echoes and reminiscences of battles fought on the other side of the Atlantic, but of no real vitality here. The voluntary controversy was fought over again among us, not only by veterans from Scotland. Young men educated in this country and alive to the living issues of the day strove in vain to become interested in those dead and dry-as-dust difficulties. The feeling for union grew stronger and stronger till at last it became irresistible. Difficulties remained among the people longer than among the ministers. It was only through very careful and skilful leading and guidance that all the congregations of the Free Church were brought into line. A similar phenomenon confronts us to-day. All the "Kirk" ministers in the maritime provinces would gladly cast their lot with the majority in 1875 if their congregations had been ready; but the congregations were not ready, and the ministers felt it better to remain with them.

The preliminaries of the union of 1860 were arranged at the regular meetings of the two Synods in June. A special meeting for consummating the union was held in October, at Pictou. The Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia had forty-two ministers. The Free Church had thirty-six ministers. A very large majority of the ministers of both bodies were in attendance. Each Synod met separately for the first time at half-past nine a.m., October 4, 1860. At these meetings a minute was passed at which each Synod declared itself to be identical with the Synod about to be formed and to which the clumsy name was given of "The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America."

A large canvas tent was erected in a field not far from the two churches in which the meetings had been held. Each Synod marched as constituted, and met in the centre of the tent, which was very large, and which was then filled to its utmost capacity. The day was sunny, cloudless, mild and very beautiful—one of those soft and lovely autumn days that cannot die out of your remembrance. Hundreds had travelled far to witness the scene in that tent. To many it was a time of deep delight and sacred joy—the fulfilment of the dreams of hope—the answering of ten thousand prayers.

Rev. John L. Murdoch, Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, being the senior Moderator, gave out Psalm c., which was sung with enthusiasm by the great assembly. He then called on the clerk to read the last minute of the Synod. Rev. W. G. Forbes, Free Church Moderator, called on the clerk of that Synod to read its last minute. The two rolls were called. The basis of union was read; the Moderators signed it, and all the members gave to it their audible assent. Each Moderator then formally declared each Synod merged in the new Synod, whose long name I have already given. There was then a clasping of hands, and Psalm cxxxiii. was sung. Rev. Andrew King, Professor of Theology in the Free Church College, Halifax, was then elected Moderator—a peculiarly graceful step in view of the fact that at an early stage he had been one of the