

fession of Faith, authorizes free communion,—that is, not loose, or indiscriminate communion, but the occasional admission to fellowship in the Lord's Supper, of persons, respecting whose christian character satisfactory evidence has been obtained, though belonging to other religious denominations, they shall enjoy what they enjoyed in their separate communions—the right of acting on their conscientious convictions.

“7. That the election of Office-bearers of this Church, in its several Congregations, belongs, by the authority of Christ, exclusively to the Members in full communion.

“8. That this Church solemnly recognizes the obligations, to hold forth, as well as to hold fast, the doctrine and laws of Christ, and to make exertions for the universal diffusion of the blessings of his gospel at home and abroad.

“9. That as the Lord hath ordained that they who preach, the gospel should live of the gospel,—that they who are taught in the word, should communicate to him that teacheth in all good things,—that they who are strong should help the weak,—and that, having freely received, they should freely give the gospel to those who are destitute of it,—this Church asserts the obligation and the privilege of its members, influenced by a regard to the authority of Christ, to support and extend, by voluntary contributions, the ordinances of the gospel.

“10. That the respective bodies of which this Church is composed, without requiring from each other an approval of the steps of procedure by their fathers, or interfering with the right of private judgment in reference to these, unite in regarding, as still valid, the reasons on which they have hitherto maintained their state of Secession and Separation from the judicatories of the Established Church, as expressed in the authorized documents of the respective bodies; and in maintaining the lawfulness and obligation of separation from ecclesiastical bodies in which dangerous errors are tolerated; or the discipline of the Church, or the rights of her ministers, or members, are disregarded.

“The United Church, in their present most solemn circumstances, join in expressing their grateful acknowledgement to the great Head of the Church, for the measure of spiritual good which He has accomplished by them in their separate state,—their deep sense of the many imperfections and sins which have marked their ecclesiastical management,—and their determined resolution, in dependence on the promised grace of their Lord, to apply more faithfully the great principles of church-fellowship,—to be more watchful in reference to admission and discipline, that the purity and efficiency of their Congregations may be promoted, and the great end of their existence, as a collective body, may be answered with respect to all within its pale, and to all without it, whether members of other denominations, or the world lying in wickedness.

“And, in fine, the United Church regard with a feeling of brotherhood, all the faithful followers of Christ, and shall endeavour to maintain the unity of the whole body of Christ, by a readiness to co-operate with all its members in all things in which they are agreed.”

The Synod in their separate capacities, having agreed to this basis, appointed each a Committee, jointly to make all necessary arrangements for consummating their Union. It was agreed that the admission of friends