

serve, and intensify the feeling of resistance, instead of conciliating it.

Far be it from me to question the sincerity or patriotism of the friends of Union. Looking at it from their standpoint, their aim is a noble and generous one. They believe, I am convinced, thoroughly and earnestly in the work they have taken in hand, but not the less do I, and some thousands of others, believe, that the cause of Christianity and the success of our Church will be best served by remaining in the mean time as we are, cultivating to the utmost of our power that spirit of Christian Unity which consists in mutual regard and mutual sympathy, in aiding each other in works of faith and labors of love.

Nor should we in these Colonies shut our eyes to certain portents in the Old World. As Disraeli said in his Glasgow speech, "We hear a moaning wind which may one day, not very distant, become a raging storm." A large and energetic party in Britain has declared that it will only rest satisfied with the overthrow of all Church Establishments. The effort will be made and the struggle will be fierce. It is not in human nature that we, on this side of the water, should remain calm or luke-warm spectators. Our brethren of the Sister Church, holding fast to the voluntary principle, will naturally and consistently give their moral support, their warmest sympathies, to the enemies of our Church.

The two antagonistic principles—that separate, like a wall, State and Voluntary Churches—will then come out clear and fully defined, and I am certain that some, at least, of the most eager advocates of the present Union movement, would be foremost in lending their sympathy and all the aid in their power to the venerable Church to which they now belong.

The hollowness of such a Union would then be only too apparent, and the antagonism too real to hope for much future benefit from it.

It is wiser, therefore, that we should, at least for the present, remain as we are. A satisfactory Union is, I am convinced, impracticable; by some it is believed unconstitutional, and altogether

beyond the powers of any Church Courts to carry out.

At any rate, I wish to remain a member of the Church of Scotland, nor can I recognise the right or the power of any Body, lay or ecclesiastical, to legislate away that privilege.

That feeling, I believe, is entertained by thousands in the Province of Nova Scotia, and I trust it will be respected, should it make itself sufficiently felt to convince the friends of Union of its reality.

The names of the opponents of Union have more than once been asked for, as if they were either a myth or persons ashamed of their opinions. We are certainly not ashamed of these opinions; we believe them to be honorable and to be right, while we repudiate, not without indignation, the implied charge, that we are actuated by any feeling of narrow bigotry, or sectarian hate to the members of the other Presbyterian Church. Quite the contrary. We respect their character, admire their zeal, and wish them all possible prosperity in the noble work they have in hand. *We can do all this, and yet hold fast with loving earnestness to the Church of our Fathers.*

Such are some of the reasons why I cannot go in with the Union movement. The time may come when Churches will, unconsciously as it were, draw more closely together, and work more harmoniously, considering the great truths in which they are at one, rather than the minor differences that keep them apart. It is the duty of every Christian man to labor in this direction, to cultivate a spirit of mutual forbearance, and try to believe as much as we can in each other's sincerity and good intentions. By this means we will have a Union of brotherly feeling and Christian affection, so that the formal Union will be scarcely thought of, and but little needed.

What important benefits are to flow from Union, our friends who urge it so zealously, have not made at all clear. They take for granted that our progress will be more rapid and our influence more felt, but it is a statistical fact which cannot be gain-said, that the ratio of increase in the two Presbyterian Churches that united some years ago,