

THE
CANADIAN PRESBYTER.

OCTOBER, 1857.

UNION.

We have had the subject of Union with the United Presbyterian Church for some time before us. We have been weighing it to the best of our ability in the balance of reason and affection. We have been trying, too, as clearly as possible to define to ourselves the relative positions of the parties to be united, and the things that hinder this consummation. No more worthy subject can engage the consideration of the "Canadian Presbyter" than this. We are sure that many eyes are looking wistfully into the future, waiting for the anticipated time when they may see this union finally accomplished—a union so manifestly fraught with blessings to the Church and people of this land. We believe that there is a general determination in both Churches that this work must be done. Many, too, are impatient at the delays which are from time to time interposed by, as they think, over-timid and cautious brethren. We rejoice in this state of feeling. It will be a motive power that will have a good effect upon the conservative elements in our respective communions.

We would, however, deprecate impatience becoming so strong as to blow the conservatives up; or to cause anything like a disruption among the members of our Churches. The safety valve of wisdom and charity will we trust prevent this, and give time to the recalcitrating and the resisting to fall into the general movement and to take their place harmoniously and kindly as workers with the united forces.

That there should be hinderances and difficulties in the way of our two Churches uniting is not a matter of wonder. The time is not very remote when we stood in array against each other in fierce and fiery conflict. Many old warriors are still alive who fought with might and main in their respective ranks, and who gave and received some good hard blows; some amongst both have not yet got so reconciled to peace as to lay aside their armour, and are ever and again taking up the sword in alarm, and looking at the security of their harnessings—of their helmets and bucklers. They are like the Englishman of a past age who could not look upon a Frenchman but with a frown, and an involuntary clutch at a lethal weapon. Such men, it is to be feared, will be