

THE GOSPEL TRIBUNE,

FOR ALLIANCE AND INTERCOMMUNION

THROUGHOUT

Evangelical Christendom.

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"ONE IS YOUR MASTER, *even* CHRIST: AND ALL YE ARE BRETHERN."

The Topic for the Month.

INCORPORATION OF DENOMINATION.

A LETTER

Addressed to the Non-established Communion of Scotland.

BY SIR GEORGE SINCLAIR, BART., OF ULBSTER.

The well-timed letter of Sir George Sinclair, now attracting so much attention in Scotland, is deemed so worthy of being extensively read in this Province, that in addition to throwing off a few thousand copies for circulation in pamphlet form, it has been judged expedient to admit the whole of the letter into the pages of the *Tribune*, together with the Preface, as it appears in the pamphlet just alluded to; the intention to print an article in the *last number*, containing the sentiments of the Preface, having been executed in such a manner as to render the production of another version absolutely necessary.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST CANADIAN EDITION.

In sending forth a Canadian reprint of Sir George Sinclair's Letter, addressed to the non-established communions of Scotland, the publisher is anxious that its admirable arguments should not be regarded as exclusively, or even very peculiarly, applicable to the Presbyterian sects of this Province; and he therefore adopts this means of calling the attention of all denominations to the sinful divisions which exist among Christians, in the hope of leading some to join, in efficient labour, for the introduction of a better state of visible Christian relationship.

Aware, however, that many seem to find it difficult to distinguish between Christian union and sinful latitudinarianism, it is necessary to state that the

union now contemplated is not a union of heterogeneous elements—not a union of gold, silver, and precious stones, with wood, hay, and stubble—not a union of parties holding the essential truths of Christianity, with others who deny or ignore them—not a union of light and darkness, or of Christ and Belial; but a union of such, and, if possible of such only, as have found grace to become the children of God; dear to him as the apple of his eye; each one in particular being a member of the body of Christ, the Church of the living God; a union, in a word, which does in very deed already exist, needing only to be freed from the fogs of bigotry, in order to have its embrace of every real Christian seen and appreciated by the world.

While such is the character of the union sought, all charges of unscriptural latitudinarianism must ever fall harmless at the feet of its advocates; for, let this union be exemplified and consolidated to the utmost extent of human conception, much of its comprehensiveness will remain unrealized, till its blessings encircle the redeemed in the glory of heaven.

As, an approximation, however, to what should be, it is considered necessary *now* to demand, by a vigorous advocacy:—

I. An incorporated union of all the Presbyterian denominations of Canada.

II. A complete organized embodiment of all the Methodist Churches of the Province.

III. A consolidated union of all the Evangelical Bodies that consistently claim, for each local Church, the right of absolute independency in all matters of Church government.

IV. The fraternal alliance and intercommunion of all Evangelical parties till they become *one*, through successive acts of incorporation, matured and consummated, from time to time, as circumstances render them practicable.

Among the reasons that stand prominently forward,