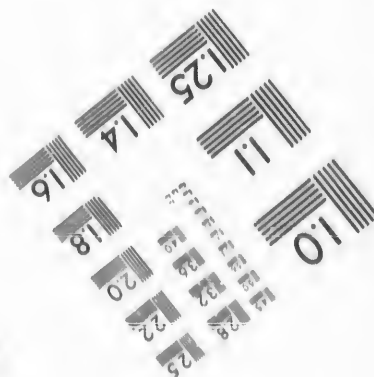
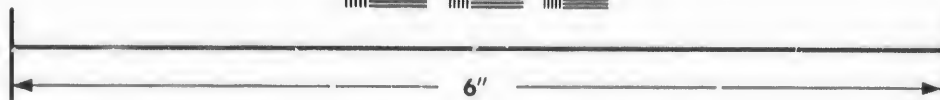
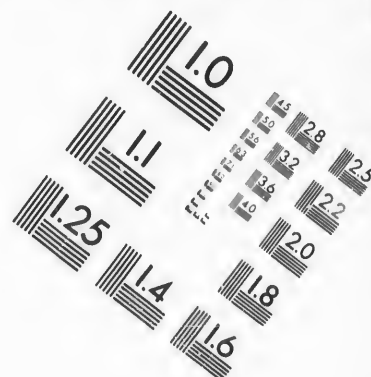




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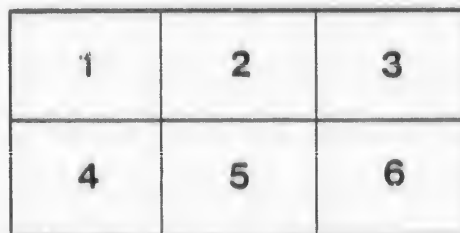
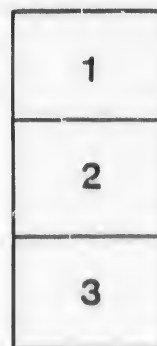
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From "The Presbyterian" for September.

THE UNION.

ACTION OF THE FOUR NEGOTIATING CHURCHES.

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There are four parties interested in the pending negotiations for Union: our own Church and the Canada Presbyterian, in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, "the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of B. N. A.," and "the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and adjoining Provinces." At the meeting of their respective Supreme Courts, held in 1870, committees were severally appointed to consider the desirableness and practicability of an organic Union of these different members of the Presbyterian family. From that time until now Committees on Union have been annually appointed by each of the Churches and the great question itself has, during four years, furnished the chief topic of discussion in the various Church Courts. The proceedings in this matter may now be said to have reached the final stage. It is, therefore, interesting and important in the highest degree to ascertain the mind of the parties concerned. We can only judge the mind of the great body of the people by the voice of their re-

presentatives, and it is to be remembered that all the Supreme Courts as well as the Presbyteries are composed of an equal number of laymen and clergymen.

[At its last meeting the Synod of the Kirk approved of the Basis of Union by a vote of *eighty-eight to ten.*]

If there was any vote taken in the assembly of the C. P. Church in regard to sending the revised Remit down to Presbyteries and Sessions, it has escaped our notice. In regard to the main question, the assembly was well believe all but unanimous, the only expressed dissent being in regard to the Resolution on "modes of worship," to which exception was taken by five Ministers and one Elder. Among the ministers were Rev. John McTavish and Rev. John Ross. The former, it is well known, has publicly stated that, although he has not got all he wanted in this Remit, his opposition to the Union is at an end.

It will be seen from the subjoined extracts that both the Churches in the Lower Provinces through their respective Synods have approved the Remit, and consequently the proposed Union, without a single dissentient voice.

THE CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

"UNION. This was one of the principal subjects before the Synod. Indeed it seemed to overshadow all others. It was found that eight Presbyteries reported in favour of Union last year, and none against. On motion of Rev. J. K. Smith, seconded by Rev. James Sinclair, the following resolution passed unanimously:—that this Synod rejoices in the approval of the Remit on Union by all the Presbyteries of this Church which have reported, waive further consideration of it at present, and proceed to hear the delegates appointed by the General Assembly of the C. P. Church, to inform us of the action of that Assembly on the subject of Union. Dr. Topp and Rev. Mr. McTavish then addressed the Synod, and laid upon the table a copy of the Basis as amended. It was moved by Dr. Waters, seconded by Rev. J. K. Smith and adopted unanimously:—That the Remit be sent down to Presbyteries, in forms of the Barrier Act, and to Sessions and Congregations for their consideration and approval, with instructions to report to an adjourned meeting of Synod. On motion of Dr. Waters, the Synod resolved to express its gratitude to Almighty God for the prosperous and happy issue to which the negotiations for Union have so far been brought. The Synod then united in prayer. The Synod agreed to appoint a Committee to secure the necessary legislation for the protection of Congregational and other Church property after the Union. The Court adjourned to meet at New Glasgow on the 3rd. Wednesday of October, at 10 o'clock a.m."

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN NOVA-SCOT ETC., ETC.

"The Report of the Committee appointed to receive and tabulate answers to the Remit on Union, was submitted by Rev. G. M. Grant, Convener. Rev. Mr. McTavish, one of the delegates from the General Assembly of the C. P. Church, being present, addressed the Synod on this subject, explaining the changes made in the Basis of Union.

After a very full discussion, in which most of the members of Synod took part, the following resolution was moved by Mr Grant and seconded by Dr. Brooke: That the Synod adhering to its former resolutions in favour of Re-union, resolves to take the following steps towards its consummation;—Whereas the Synod of our church

in the Upper Provinces, and the General Assembly of the C. P. Church, at their recent meetings in Ottawa, adopted a preamble to the Basis of Union, and made sundry changes in the Basis and accompanying resolutions, this Synod accepts the said preamble, and assents to the changes, approving of the same as eminently satisfactory to all who are attached to the constitution and to the procedure of the Church of Scotland and this Synod also approves and accepts the name of "THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA," by which it is proposed that the re-united Church shall be called.

Further, the Synod orders that the amended Basis be printed and sent down to Presbyteries at once, that they may, without any delay, ascertain the minds of their congregations within their bounds: and to secure, if possible, unanimous consent to the proposed Re-union, appoint Revs. A. M. Lear, R. J. Cameron, Thomas Dunlop, J. F. Campbell, and G. M. Grant, as a delegation to those congregations in the County of Pictou that form the minority of the church, to explain the position of the Synod, and to urge the great importance of unanimity on our part in the sight of the whole Church; and further, appoints a Special Meeting to be held in New Glasgow, on the 3rd Wednesday of October next, at 10 o'clock a.m., to receive the returns to the Remit, and also to receive a draft of the proposed Legislation referred to in Resolution V.

It was moved in amendment by Rev. R. McCunn, seconded by Rev. C. Dunn, that the returns to the Remit do not warrant this Synod in taking immediate steps towards the consummation of the proposed Re-union, but that, in the altered circumstances of the Basis and Resolutions, the Synod agrees to the resolution just moved by Mr. Grant.

Rev. Mr. Grant stated that, as he considered Mr. McCunn's amendment rather a substantive resolution, he would withdraw his own until Mr. McCunn's was put, that he might vote for it. Mr. Grant's resolution was then put to the Meeting, and carried, *nem. con.*—*From the Records, August.*

It may not be out of place to state here a few particulars regarding the four negotiating Churches. The number of Presbyteries are, in the C. P. Church, 19; Church of Scotland in Canada, 11; Presbyterian Church in Lower Provinces, 10; Church of Scotland in Lower Provinces, 6; Total, 46. The following congregational figures are taken from the most recent Church Statistics.

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	No. of Ministers.	Average Stipend.	No. of Congrega- tions.	No. of Vacant Charges.	No. of Elders.	No. of Communi- cants.	Sabbath School	
							Teachers.	Scholars.
C. P. Church	329	\$ 700	645	78	1,937	49,315	4,094	43,536
Ch. of S. in Canada	122	842	179	17	609	17,247	1,193	11,487
Ch. of Lower Provinces	124	947	138	17	832	18,082	1,710	13,401
Ch. of S. in L. P.	31	*874	41	9	228	4,622	474	4,970
	606	*840	1,003	121	3,656	89,266	7,471	73,394

* Stipend in No. 4 includes Manse and Glebe.

There are thus over one thousand con-
 gregations,—many of course being “double
 charges”—and one hundred and twenty-
 one openings for additional ministers in
 “vacant charges.” The average stipend
 is \$840. There are *six colleges*, in all of
 which, save one, divinity classes are taught
 —Queen’s College at Kingston, being
 endowed with University powers.

Each of the churches in question has a
 fund for the benefit of Ministers’ widows
 and orphans. That of the first named in
 the Schedule, has a capital of \$77,089 and

an annual revenue of \$16,234. The
 second has capital, \$73,153; revenue,
 \$9,018. The third has \$20,000 invested,
 and the fourth, has just commenced to
 create a fund, for which purpose \$2,661
 have been collected. The aggregate of
 these funds is \$162,921.

[According to the Census of 1872
 the number of adherents in the Do-
 minion belonging to these four
 Churches is over 509,000. The Church
 of England numbers 494,049, and the
 Wesleyan Methodists 378,543.]

