

THE "Visitors" of the Andover Seminary have at length decided that

Dr. Egbert C. Smyth maintains and inculcates beliefs inconsistent with, and repugnant to, the creed of said institution, and the statutes of the same, and contrary to the true intent of the founders thereof, as expressed in said statutes, in the following particulars, as charged in said amended complaint, to wit:

That the Bible is not "the only perfect rule of faith and practice, but is fallible and untrustworthy, even in some of its religious teachings."

"That no man has power or capacity to repent without knowledge of God in Christ."

"That there is, and will be, probation after death for all men who do not decisively reject Christ during the earthly life."

With regard to the other professors, none of the charges were sustained.

THIS last decision has surprised many, even the professors themselves, who have as a body maintained the speculations of the Andover school. The Visitors, however, are men of high repute, and without doubt have decided according to the evidence. The matter now enters upon a new phase; the trustees are on the side of the accused, and an appeal is to be made to the civil courts, the five acquitted professors declaring that they will stand by their colleague, go or stay together. Pending the decision of the courts, proceedings will be stayed, and the work of the seminary proceed as usual.

THERE has been a remarkable union among two sections of the Christian churches in Japan. Light from the East. The churches of the Congregational order and those of the Presbyterian polity have formulated a basis of agreement. There seems little doubt but that the basis will be formally ratified, unless pressure from without should be used, and prevail; regarding which, as we believe in the freedom of the churches, we say "Hands off." Let the Japanese Christians work out their own salvation. The old Calvinistic symbols, the Westminster and Heidelberg Catechisms, are simply accepted for "substance of doctrine," if any one can tell what that means; but ministers will be required to accept the creeds called the Apostles' and Nicene, with the nine articles of the Evangelical Alliance. The polity is no more rigid than the creeds. Each local church is managed either by its members (Congregational) or by representatives chosen by its members (the Pres-

byterian Session); there are to be District and State Conferences, and a National Conference. The District Conferences license to preach; the State Conferences control evangelistic work. The State Conferences moreover at each annual meeting shall appoint a committee of appeal for the decision of cases that may come before it. It has yet to be tried how this compromise may work, but we thank God for an endeavour to let non-essentials go rather than that the progress of Christ's kingdom should be hindered by the conceits of men.

THE absurdity of the Separate School system, to say nothing of its injustice, is seen in Newfoundland, which has carried the Separate School idea to its legitimate conclusion. Each denomination has its own Separate School, the Government grant being divided *pro rata*. The total grant is \$96,065; of which Roman Catholics get \$36,479, the Protestants \$58,662 for theirs, and these are their proportions of the money:

Church of England share, \$32,138; Methodist share, \$24,488; Presbyterian share, \$640; Reformed Episcopal share, \$308; Congregational share, \$271; Baptist share, \$29.

It needs another touch, Plymouth Brethren, two grants, \$4.70! which is about the proportion given.

OF all the absurdities of our Toronto Jubilee demonstrations, that of marching 10,000 school children through the streets under a burning sun, and the sun did burn during the jubilee holiday of Toronto, is about the greatest. The moral effect of training our youth in this absurd love of display, to the overshadowing of the practical ends to be gained by school instruction, of itself is sufficient to condemn the practice in any thoughtful person's mind. The effect on health in many cases is confessedly injurious. Partial sunstrokes are not among the unknown results, to say nothing of the anxiety endured by many, very many parents. All this, however, goes for nothing in the eyes of some school officials, whose vanity can find no other avenue to public notice, and whose only claim to gratitude is that they do no greater mischief to the cause of education than is being done.

It seems to be a not uncommon course in English training ships for boys who wish to be dismissed to pelt the chaplain with prayer books during the performance of the service.