

THE

Knox College Monthly

AND
PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE.

VOL. XII.

JUNE, 1890.

No. 2

THE BIRTH OF A SISTER DOMINION.

LAST February a conference of the representative statesmen of the Australasian Colonies,—viz. New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, West Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand, met in the city of Melbourne to consult whether the time was ripe for the federation of those Colonies. In the correspondence in which Sir Henry Parkes, the Premier of the great Mother Colony of New South Wales, proposed a convention or conference, he said, "The scheme of federal government, it is assumed, would necessarily follow close upon the type of the Dominion Government of Canada. It would provide for the appointment of a Governor-General, for the creation of an Australian Privy Council and a Parliament consisting of a Senate and a House of Commons." The Hon. Mr. Gillies, speaking from the chair as president of the Conference, said, "It was a question as to whether the (proposed) federation should be like the Dominion of Canada or whether it should be similar to the Constitution of the United States. He had no doubt that they would find that the Canadian Constitution

*An address delivered before the Royal Society of Canada, on May 27th, by Principal Grant, Vice-President and now President of the Society.