

TERMS: \$3 a year, in advance. Postage by mail, in advance, payable at the office of delivery. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be drawn in favor of the Publisher.

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON P.O. Drawer 2484 Publisher and Proprietor

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1874.

THE LATE ECCLESIASTICAL MEET IN IS.

It has been the uniform testimony of all present at the recent ecclesiastical assemblies that the spirit displayed, and the general manner in which business has been conducted have been specially becoming and creditable.

RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE CHURCHES IN SCOTLAND.

The present movement for the abolition of patronage of the Church of Scotland, has led to renew a discussion about the relative numbers adhering to each Church in that country.

Table with 2 columns: Denomination and Population. Rows include: Belonging to Established Church (1,063,000), Free Church (799,900), U. P. Church (174,900), Reformed Original (45,000), Secession (45,000), Presbyterian Population (2,302,000), Other Denominations (202,000), Total Evangelical Denominations (2,504,000), Belonging to Roman Catholic Ch (200,000), Societies and other sects (10,000), Neglecting ordinance (300,000), 580,000, 830,000, 3,334,000.

The Rev. E. Wallace Waits, Rockwood and Showers' Corners, was inducted into the charge of Nelson and Waterdown, on the 21st ult.

THE COMING UNION.

As we stated last week, the Union of the different Presbyterian bodies in Canada may now be regarded as an accomplished fact, and the very pleasing and harmonious way in which this has in the end been brought round must be a matter for general congratulation and thankfulness.

THE SCOTTISH GENERAL ASSEMBLIES.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met at Edinburgh on Thursday the 21st of May.

The Rev. Dr. Gillan retiring Moderator preached, and afterwards constituted the Assembly by prayer.

The Free Church Assembly also met on the 21st of May. Rev. Dr. Duff preached and was succeeded in the chair by Rev. Dr. Stewart of Leghorn.

The Assembly sustain the appeal, recall the sentence of the Synod of Aberdeen on this special ground, that while Mr. John Muir, by his own admission, has taken a step which is a high offence against the discipline of this Church, and which is deserving of the highest censure, yet the Assembly, considering Mr. Muir's position in life, and considering the possibility of his not having adverted to the true nature of the step he took, are unwilling to subject him to all the consequences he has incurred.

The meaning of this sentence seems to be that seeing Mr. Muir is a kind of weak ignorant man, he is not at all the time, but his action before the Sheriff if not immediately withdrawn, he will certainly be excommunicated forthwith.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

The following papers from the Daily Telegraph. St. John's N. B., show how strongly the feeling at present prevailing in that Province over the School question: The principles of the Roman Catholic Church are the same all over the world.

But it seems that what is agreeable to all the denominations in Maine, is tyranny, injustice, bigotry, persecution, robbery in New Brunswick! It is by means of these cries that the Nothingarian opponents of the Free School ticket, the New Brunswick Dough-faces, no less than the nifty out-and-out Repeaters or Separate School men, hope to manufacture votes!

ANTI PATRONAGE MOVEMENT IN SCOTLAND.

How the measure for the abolition of patronage in Scotland is viewed by a large portion of the English community may be seen from the following extracts from the London Times and Daily News.

(From the Times) Thirty years ago the British Cabinet and Legislature had the most honest and patriotic desire to settle the question in the interest of the Scotch people, and as the phrase is, did all for the best.

Irish, and now Scotch; everywhere people are left more and more free to choose and to manage religion for themselves.

(From the Daily News.)

The Duke of Richmond has made his great essay in ecclesiastical reform. The measure which he presented to the House of Lords last night, on behalf of the Government, is one of those tardy concessions to necessity which it becomes a Conservative Ministry to make.

It would be by all the parishioners; and it is no reply to that claim to say, as was said last night, that such an election would amount to disestablishment.

THE CASE OF REV. MR. SWING, CHICAGO.

The following is the text of Professor Patton's appeal in the case of the Rev. D. Swing, to the Synod of Northern Illinois:—

The Rev. Arthur Mitchell, Moderator of the Presbytery of Chicago.

REV. AND DEAR SIR: Allow me to inform you that I intend to appeal to the Synod of Illinois, North, at its session in October next, against the decision of the Presbytery of Chicago in the case of the Rev. David Swing.

THE APPEAL

is from a "definite sentence," and on the following grounds: (1.) "Irregularities in the proceedings." (2.) "Hurrying to a decision before important testimony was taken."

Under these heads I shall group more specifically the reasons which lead me to carry the case to a higher court.

"IRREGULARITIES."

1. The Presbytery erred in admitting the testimony of the Elders of the Fourth Church when it appeared that the sermons of Mr. Swing respecting which they gave their opinion were in the possession of the accused. These sermons, though called for, were withheld.

2. The Presbytery erred in allowing the Moderator to vote on the charges and specifications, and to express his views of the case in a written opinion.

3. The Presbytery erred in allowing the Elder representing the Ninth Church to vote on the charges and specifications, inasmuch as the session of that church sustain the Rev. Dr. McKaig in his position as pastor-elect, notwithstanding the heretical opinion which Dr. McKaig has publicly expressed on the subject of Inspiration.

4. The Presbytery erred in allowing the Elder representing the Fourth Church to vote on the charges and specifications, inasmuch as he was an interested party.

"HURRYING TO A DECISION."

The prosecutor expected to prove Specification 1 of Charge 2 by a letter written by Mr. Swing to the Rev. R. Laird Collier, and by the testimony of Mr. Collier. The prosecutor asked for a continuance, and accompanied the request with the presentation of affidavits which showed the importance of the testimony, and the necessity of a postponement in order to obtain it. The request was not granted.

"PREJUDICE."

There was a manifestation of prejudice in the case throughout the trial. It will suffice to call attention to the following facts:

1. A member of the Court who voted with the majority stated on the floor of Presbytery that he was ready to "show his colors, and that he belonged to the 'winning side.'" This was before the evidence was heard.

2. In several instances members of the Court in giving their "opinions" indulged in unkind personalities which were calculated to excite odium against the prosecutor.

3. Remarks were made by more than one member of the Court favouring a lax subscription to the Confession of Faith.

4. It was affirmed by the defense, and reaffirmed by leading members of the Presbytery who voted with the majority, that the issue before the Presbytery was one of Old and New School Presbyterianism. This had great weight with the Presbytery, and was calculated not only to enlist the sympathies of those who belonged to the late New School branch of the Church, but also