

## PROGRESS OF THE UNION MOVEMENT.

The next meeting of the Committees of the Free and United Presbyterian Church of Scotland on Union, is to take place on the 29th of this month. In the meantime it is well to remember that considerable progress has already been made in arranging the bases of negotiation. The following have been given in as the subordinate standards of the U. P. Church:—

I. "The Basis of Union between the United Secession and Relief Churches," adopted by these Churches at their union, under the title of "the United Presbyterian Church," on Thursday, 13th May, 1847. II. The Westminster Confession of Faith, and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, with certain qualifications. Two documents were also submitted as being of authority in the United Presbyterian Church:—1. Rules and Forms of Procedure in the Church Courts; and 2. Summary of Principles of the United Presbyterian Church. The former document comprised, *inter alia*, formulas for ministers at ordination, for the ordination and admission of office-bearers, and for the licensing of probationers.

The documents in authority in the Free Church were classed as follows:—

I. Subordinate standards binding upon the consciences of ministers and other office bearers, according to the formula and corresponding questions. II. Documents adopted by the Church at former times, and still illustrative more or less generally of her position and principles, viz.:—1. The First Book of Discipline; 2. The Second Book of Discipline, and the other documents referred to in the Act and Declaration of 1851 anent the publication of the Subordinate standards, etc., of the Free Church. Under this head it was stated that the Free Church recognized generally the Acts of the General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland previous to 1843, and the Acts of the Free Assembly since 1843, except in so far as they had been repealed or superseded. III. Documents approved and used as Directories for Catechising, viz.:—1. The Larger Catechism. 2. The Shorter Catechism. 1. Documents bearing on the discipline of the Church, viz.:—1. The Form of Process according to the Act of 1707. See Act xi. of General Assembly, 1707, pages 17 to 37, entitled 'Reform of Process in the Judicatories of the Church of Scotland, with relation to Scandals and Censures.' 2. The Acts of the Free Assembly, 1852, 1853, and 1854, by which the Act of 1707 is modified, as exhibited together in a report approved of by the General Assembly of 1855.

The subjects to be discussed by the Committees have been arranged under the following very exhaustive classification:—

I. The extent to which the two Churches agree as to the Province of the Civil Magistrate in relation to Religion and the Christian Church.

II. Any other matter of doctrine about which explanations on either side may seem to be called for.

III. Theological Curriculum, and the training and licensing of Students, and arrangements regarding Probationers.

IV. Election of Office-bearers, Constitution of the Church Courts, and the relation of these Courts to one another, and Forms of Ecclesiastical Procedure.

V. Law and Practice of the two Churches as to Public Worship.

VI. Extent of difference of the two Churches as to Education, with special reference to Government Grants.

VII. Finance and Church Property, including such matters as the Free Church Sustentation Fund, Titles, Administration of Secular Affairs by Managers or by Deacons' Court.

VIII. Principles on which admission to Sealing Ordinances is regulated in either Church.

IX. Relation of the two Churches, if united, to Ministers and Congregations beyond the limits of Scotland.

## STATISTICS OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SCOTLAND.

The last number of the *U. P. Record* contains an outline of the statistics of the United Presbyterian Church, to which we will briefly direct the attention of our readers. Complete returns were received from 19 Presbyteries. 5 Presbyteries wanted but one return. In all there were but 34 blanks out of 557 congregations. There are but 12 congregations in the whole Synod that never gave in a return at all. Number of ministers, 577. Increase during the year, 4. Number of Elders, 4236. Probationers, 103. Students of divinity 161. Congregations, 557. Communicants, 168,245.

Relative to the Finances of the Church, the Statistical Committee remark:

Steady progress, as a rule, continues to mark the finances of the church. The very exceptions, in some departments, to this progress indicate the presence and influence of principle. The entire income of the