

to many in Windsor and Halifax writes that in his charge and beyond it, the Lords' work is advancing gloriously.

Some of the facts referred to in this article are cheering, and some are glorious. But larger blessings are in our offer. Clouds overcharged with treasure are ready to fall in rich blessings on the receptive and the expectant. We are loudly called to watch and pray, to ask and to expect large and glorious gifts of grace. The Lord is saying "I am the Lord thy God which brought thee out of the land of Egypt; open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it."

A PRESBYTERIAN FEDERATION.

We have much pleasure in bringing before our readers the proposal which has been made to form a Federal Union of the Presbyterian Churches throughout the world. The proposal will come in due form before Synod, and it is well that the minds of ministers and people should become familiarized with it.

It is not proposed to form an organic union of all the Presbyterian Churches throughout the world. It is evident that one General Assembly could not regulate, with advantage, the internal economy of Churches in such widely separated countries as Switzerland, Germany, France, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Australia, the United States, and Canada. Great injury might arise from any attempt to interfere with these different Churches in the management of their own affairs; for all ecclesiastical history shows that serious dangers are to be apprehended from the establishment of any central power, which would be almost sure to interfere with the liberty of local Churches and of individuals. Some Denominations, moreover, have grand historical recollections which they wish to cherish; and some regard it as their duty to bear a testimony in behalf of truths which others seem to them to overlook. In these circumstances, the Churches will not be asked to merge their separate existence in one large organization, but, retaining their self-government, to meet with the other members of the Presbyterian family to consult for the good of the Church at large and for the glory of God.

In order that a Church be entitled to join this union, it should hold to the Presbyterian form of government, and have a Creed in accordance with the *Consensus* of the

Reformed Churches. No new Creed or Formulary of any kind is contemplated.

Several formal steps have been taken with the view of effecting this Presbyterian union. The subject was specially brought before the great meeting held in Philadelphia in 1872, to celebrate the Tercentenary of the Scottish Reformation. The General Assembly of 1873 of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, unanimously adopted resolutions in favour of an Ecumenical Council of Presbyterian Churches, and appointed a committee to have its resolutions carried into effect. In the same year the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland passed a series of like resolutions; and it is ready to join with other Churches in seeking the same great end.

A meeting of about 150 delegates to the New York Conference of October last, was held on one evening in Dr. Crosby's Church. At this meeting the utmost cordiality of feeling was manifested, and resolutions were passed endorsing the proposal. The committee appointed on that occasion propose to ask every Presbyterian organization throughout the world:

First, To express in a formal manner its approval of the object; and,

Secondly, To appoint a Committee to meet or correspond with Committees from other Presbyterian Denominations, for the purpose of arranging for a meeting or convention of Representatives to be appointed by the Denominations, which meeting may effect an Organization, and determine its character and practical modes of action.

But what good can be expected to flow from the proposed Union. The following reply is given to that pertinent question.

1st, It would exhibit before the world the substantial unity, quite consistent with minor diversities, of the one great family of Presbyterian Churches.

2d, It would greatly tend to hold up and strengthen weak and struggling Churches, by showing that they are members of a large body. The Protestant Churches of the Continent of Europe, for example, feel the great need of sympathy and support from Churches more favourably situated.

3d, It would enable Churches, which are not inclined to organic union, to manifest their belief in the unity of the Church, and to fraternize with those whom they love, while they still hold to their distinctive testimony.

4th, Each Presbyterian Church would become acquainted with the constitution and work of sister Churches, and their