

Ecclesiastical News.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY has conferred the degree of D.D. on Revs. John Macleod of Govan, and his brother Norman Macleod of St. Stephen's, Edinburgh, the sons of the late Dr. John Macleod of Morven. Dr. William Chambers, head of the celebrated publishing house in Edinburgh, died recently in the 83rd year of his age. Dr. Chambers lived long enough to see the great work which had engaged his attention for a number of years—the restoration of St. Giles Cathedral—almost completed. This work having been conducted at his sole expense, it was the intention of Her Majesty to have conferred a baronetcy upon him, in recognition of his public spirit. The Rev. John Mitchell, B.D., a graduate of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, and a licentiate of the Presbyterian Church in Canada has been received as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of England, and inducted to the charge of an important congregation in the old town of Chester.

THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND met in London on the 30th of April. Rev. Dr. Edmond of High-burg was elected Moderator and delivered an elaborate opening address. The proceedings of the following day were begun by the celebration of the Communion. The missions of the Church, Home and Foreign, were reported to be in a prosperous condition. The mission work carried on by this Church in China is especially hopeful. Rev. David Smith of Formosa said, that in the southern part of that Island the ranks of heathenism were being annually thinned by about 200. There were now 3,763 baptized members in the eight churches there. Connected with the mission they had now three colleges for students, and two Presbyteries—one in Amoy and one in Swatow. After long discussion the Synod adopted the new Hymn Book prepared by a committee, and which is claimed to be the best extant. It contains the metrical Psalms, a large collection of Hymns, and a number of Anthems. An animated debate took place on the relations of the Church to the Confession of Faith, at the close of which it was almost unanimously resolved to appoint a special committee with instructions to consider,—(1) Whether any change may with advantage be made in the existing formulas by which office-bearers affirm their adherence to the Confession of Faith.—(2) Whether it is desirable that any explanatory declaration be adopted by the Church with a view to make it more clear, in what sense the Church understands her subordinate standards or any portion thereof.—(3) To consider whether, with a view to secure some briefer and more available

compendium of fundamental doctrine, the Church ought not to approach the Presbyterian Council, to meet at Belfast next year, on the subject of such a digest of doctrine designed to embody that "Consensus of the Reformed Confessions" on which the Alliance is based.

THE SYNOD OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH met in Edinburgh in the beginning of May. The Home Mission report claimed a considerable increase to the membership of the Church during the past year. The total income for all purposes in 1882 had been about \$1,750,000. The Foreign Missions of the Church are assuming large proportions. In their mission fields they have now twenty-one congregations with 10,808 members, and 12,524 pupils in their mission schools. To carry on this work they have a staff of fifty European missionaries, six medical missionaries and a large staff of native agents. Altogether there are 481 labourers male and female, employed. In almost every one of their mission fields, and in almost every department of their work, there had been a steady advance during the year. The work in Jamaica had been especially prosperous. The Annual Missionary Meeting was as usual the most popular feature of the Synod's proceedings. The Rev. W. D. Armstrong of Ottawa was cordially received and had an opportunity afforded him of giving information respecting the vast Home Mission field of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. There was the usual disestablishment debate, followed by strong resolutions and petitions to Parliament for the severance of connection between Church and State.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA met in Saratoga on the 17th of May. Dr. Herrick Johnson the retiring Moderator preached the opening sermon, in which pointed reference was made to "a famine of the ministry." Dr. Edwin F. Hatfield, for upwards of forty years the stated Clerk of the Assembly, and a tower of strength in the Church, was elected Moderator. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered in the evening of the first day. The consideration of its Sabbath-School work received as usual the early and earnest attention of the Assembly. It was well reported of. The subject of fraternal relations with the Presbyterian Church, South, was cordially entered upon, a notable event being the presence of three delegates from that Church. Forty ministers and elders in equal numbers were appointed to attend the Belfast Presbyterian Council. The past year has been one of grand success in regard to both the Home and Foreign Missions of the Church. She