

the unfortunate spirit that makes conscience of trifles and strife of everything. Considering the present condition of the Churches of Europe, it is well that, in all the union negotiations to which we have referred, prominence has been given to the independence of the Church of Christ. To the Presbyterian Church, above most Churches, has been committed by Providence the keeping of the great principle, a Free Church in a Free State, which is now coming to the surface as a rallying word all over Christendom. Presbyterianism helped to make England a Free State; if it is true to its history and its mission, it may yet help to make the Church of England a free Church. It is good, then, to see the old blue flag flung on the breeze from New Zealand to Canada, and bearing the old truth with a new face in these words, quoted from the Basis of Union in New South Wales, "By Christ's appointment the Church is spiritually independent, and is not subject in its own province, and in the administration of its own affairs, to the jurisdiction or authoritative interference of the civil power."

What the issue may be of the unions under negotiation none can tell. The fact that the unions already accomplished, notwithstanding fears and forebodings, are working without collision on any point either of belief or practice, should encourage the negotiating Churches to proceed. It is possible the union movement in Scotland may be arrested till such time as the Established Church, freed from State connection can be embraced in it. Such a union as would make Scotland one Church is worth working and waiting for. If the union movement begun so well between the Presbyterian Churches of British America fail, it must be from indifference or want of tact, for it is seldom that two large Churches enter on tender negotiations with so little to hinder a speedy and happy issue.

Missionary Intelligence.

FREE CHURCH MISSIONS.

From the *Free Church Record* for May we extract the following particulars regarding the native church at Calcutta, furnished by Dr. M. Mitchell:

The number of adult baptisms has this year been five—a number unusually small.

One of these was that of a pupil of the Female Orphanage. The second case presented some very interesting features. It was the baptism of Kurban Ali, a very respectable and well-educated Mohammedan, who has some knowledge of Arabic, and a good knowledge of Persian. It is about sixteen years since his attention was first drawn to Christianity. While he resided at Patna, a fakir presented him with a MS. copy of the Persian work, *Mirrat-ul-quds* (The Mirror of Righteousness), one of the books drawn up, at the request of the Emperor Akbar, by Jerome Xavier, nephew of the famous Francis Xavier. The work is very defective as an exposition of Christian truth, and contains much very questionable legendary matter; but it had the effect of awakening a measure of interest in the mind of Kurban Ali. That interest was greatly deepened by the perusal of the Bible, and by intercourse with several Christian friends, among whom he mentions particularly Mr. Macfarlane, of the Church of Scotland's Mission at Gaya. He afterwards came in contact with our Mohammedan Scripture-reader, Haffi Khan; and his impressions having ripened into full conviction—