

as a whole, and form the basis of the union for the United Church, which was adopted.

The motion of Rev. Mr. Ross was then put and lost, and the amendment of Rev. Dr. Topp accepted as a substantive motion.

A vote being called for the ayes and nays on Rev. Dr. Topp's motion, stood as follows: Yeas, 60; nays, 22.

The Assembly then adjourned until half-past seven.

(To be continued.)

Articles Contributed.

Astronomy.

"The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament sheweth His handywork."

No. I.

The writer purposes to furnish for the *Record* a few simple papers on Astronomy. His main object is to enable such a man may read these papers, and whose knowledge of the heavenly bodies may be comparatively limited, to survey them, and think of them in connection with those great laws by which their motions are regulated—thus intensifying and expanding their conceptions of the power, wisdom and goodness of the Creator.

With what conflicting emotions must Adam on his creation have beheld the wonders of the heavens! We can imagine him gazing with mingled admiration and awe as the sun on the morning of his creation ascended on the blue vault above him. With what interest he must also have marked its steady descent to the horizon, and as he looked on its last trembling rays just as its disc disappeared in the distance, how he would speculate as to whether it would again present itself or was lost forever! We can fancy his first night passed in admiring the stars, and marking their progress from east to west. With what absorbing interest must he have noticed the dawn, and hailed the re-appearance of the sun as he shot his rays towards the only human spectator of his splendour—exclaiming in the language of the poet:—

"These are thy glorious works, Parent of good,
Almighty! Thine this universal frame,
Thus wondrous fair; Thyself how wondrous then!
To us invisible, or dimly seen
In these thy lowest works; yet these declare
Thy goodness beyond thought, and power divine."

The term astronomy is derived from two Greek words signifying *a star*, and *a law*. It is unquestionably the most ancient of all the sciences. To the honor of being its inventors the Egyptians, the Chinese and the Indians, not to mention other nations, respectively lay claim. The scientific records of the ancient nations named, whilst they embody most valuable information as to astronomical phenomena which occurred in successive ages, and which have been eminently useful to modern observers, yet indicate almost total ignorance of the fundamental laws of the science. Eclipses of the sun and moon were observed with wonder, and noted, as in the case of three of the moon which were recorded by Ptolemy in the years 719 and 720 before the Christian era, as they were seen at Babylon. We have no reason, however, to believe that the causes of eclipses were known till upwards of a century afterwards, when a solar eclipse is said to have been predicted by Thales. An eclipse of the sun is caused, as the reader is probably aware, by the dark body of the moon passing between the earth and that luminary. It was observed by ancient students of the heavens that immediately before and immediately after an eclipse of the sun the moon was in close proximity to it, and thus the cause of the solar eclipse was discovered, and a satisfactory explanation of the moon's phases furnished. It was more difficult to ascertain the cause of the solar eclipse which is occasioned by the shadow of the earth passing the body of the moon, which being of itself dark, derives, like the earth and the other planets, its light from the sun. To the person who first conjectured that the eclipse of the moon was owing to the shadow of the earth it was clear that such an event could not take place except when the sun, earth and moon were in the same straight line. As the moon was invariably eclipsed when full the truth of