

**PRESBYTERIAN UNION.**—On the 26th of December the Committee of Synod on Union held a meeting in St. Paul's Church, Montreal, and thereafter, by previous arrangement, had a conference with the Committee of the General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church. The several matters remitted by their supreme Church Courts were fully considered at the conference, and such satisfactory results were attained as to make it appear that there is now no serious obstacle to the consummation of the pending negotiations. So satisfied were the members of both Committees of this being the case, that it was resolved to hold a joint meeting of the Committees of the four negotiating Churches at St. John, New Brunswick, in the month of April next, in the hope that they may then agree upon a document containing terms of union for the acceptance and final action of the supreme Church Courts, at their meetings next summer.—*Presbyterian*.

**A GREAT ABUSE.**—The friends of Denominational Colleges have often pointed to the States as affording the most convincing proof of the necessity of such institutions. There, they have cried, are people untrammelled by an Established Church, and yet they seem instinctively to betake themselves to Denominational Institutions for higher education, rather than have them the common property and under the common control of all the sections of the State. The cry comes now from that same country against the wretched policy which has, in this respect, been followed. The *New York Independent*, in a recent strong and outspoken article, says that this undue multiplying of "colleges" and "universities," to the extent of, we suppose, about three hundred, is exercising a most injurious influence. By the excessive competition thus engendered, the standard of culture is lowered, the churches are oppressed with never ending schemes for college building and endowing, while the professors are over-worked and under-paid, and all is in danger of getting into confusion. The *Independent* cries out for a non-denominational system.

It says that surely "Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists and Episcopalians ought to be able to study chemistry, geology, mathematics, languages or history together, without wrangling about beliefs. They can further education by working hand in hand; but they only hinder it by striving to labour apart. Cannon balls are much more effective than handfulls of small shot." This seems reasonable enough, and yet it is excessively difficult to get people to believe it. The absurd multiplying of colleges will no doubt eventually cure itself, but what an amount of suffering and loss to the cause of Christ may be incurred before that takes place. The Christian people in the States are no doubt very liberal with their money, but what can be done when single denominations have as many as eight or ten colleges in single States? Let us in Canada take warning and guard against the same mistake. To be sure we are not in great danger, for while in general secular education is pursued at the same seats of learning by the studious youth of the different denominations, there appears a considerable amount of backwardness on the part of many to provide the requisite means for giving even a thorough theological training to the future pastors of the churches. When wealthy denominations find themselves unable to equip and maintain in reputable order and efficiency a simple theological training institution, there will not be much immediate danger of an undue multiplication of Denominational Colleges for instruction in the ordinary secular branches of a liberal education.—*Brit. Am. Presbyterian*.

**MINISTERS' SALARIES.**—The new pastor of the Bond Street Baptist Church, Toronto, Rev. John H. Castle, D. D., is to receive a salary of \$3,000. Dr. Topp, of Knox's Church, has the same amount. St. Andrews, Cooke's and Gould Street Presbyterian each give \$2,000. A correspondent of the *B. A. Presbyterian*, speaking of the salaries of the Professors of Knox College, says that "A man cannot live comfortably in Toronto and educate his family under \$2,000 a year."