

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is endeavouring to reform the Law of Patronage,—of course, in the direction of giving more power of choice to the congregations. This movement completed, and Disestablishment effected (which will come to pass in a few years), the way will be open for the reunion of the now “dissenting” churches. If we live to be old, we may see that day.

The Pope’s gracious invitation to his separated brethren, that they become reconciled to the Holy See at the Ecumenical Council, does not seem to be appreciated by those whom it concerns. The Patriarchs of the Greek Church tell him that he is no better than themselves; and various Protestant bodies are protesting anew against all the claims he puts forth. We do not expect that one solitary heretic will be annexed to the Roman Church on the occasion.

The Vice-Chancellor has decided the Reading case (to which we referred in May, at page 430), in favour of the right of the Church to dismiss a minister. He said, “The submission of the minority is the principle on which civil society is formed. It is a principle essential for that reasonable harmony which is necessary for the societies, great and small, civil or religious. Unless the law were so settled, nothing could follow but confusion and defeat of the very purposes for which these congregations are formed.”

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## Official.

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### ADDRESS TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

The following is the text of the address from the Congregational Union to Sir John Young, adopted at the recent Annual Meeting.

To *His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir JOHN Young, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Governor General of Canada, &c., &c., &c.*

“**MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:—**

“The Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, consisting of Ministers and Lay Delegates of Churches of the Congregational or Independent Order in the said Provinces, in offering their congratulations to your Excellency upon your accession to the Government of the Dominion, beg to renew the assurance of their constant loyalty to their rightful sovereign, Queen Victoria.

“The Congregational Union rejoice to find themselves, in the person of your Excellency, under the rule of one who has proved himself, in other dependencies of the Empire so faithful a servant of the Crown and so true a friend of the people; and they are assured that your Excellency’s administration of the Government of Canada will be alike honorable to yourself and beneficial to this growing country.

“With especial gratification have they observed your Excellency’s emphatic adherence to the principle, which they hold of such fundamental importance to the welfare of the Church and the State, to wit, that the members and ministers of all religious communions are to be regarded as standing upon a perfectly equal footing before the law, no class receiving any peculiar favours from the civil power. The Congregationalists of Great Britain have ever held that churches should be sustained by the voluntary contributions of their members; and here they have steadfastly refused all subsidies from the public treasury, asking from those in authority no more than the common