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Ecclesiastical News.

THE SYNOD OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH met in Edinburgh, on the 3rd of May, in their New Hall—a spacious and handsome edifice fitted up at a cost of about £50,000. The attendance at the opening services was upwards of 2,000 persons. Professor Calderwood was elected Moderator. The report on Statistics shewed the number of congregations to be 550—an increase of six during the year; the number of members was 174,134—a decrease of 932. The collections for congregational, missionary, and benevolent purposes were considerably less than the amount received in 1878, which was attributed to the commercial depression which has recently prevailed. The question of Disestablishment came up for consideration on the report of the committee which recommended the Synod to petition Parliament for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Established Church. While acknowledging the receipt of a courteous communication from the Kirk on the subject of a union of the Presbyterian Churches, the sentiment prevailed that, so long as the Church of Scotland adheres to the principle of establishment, the Synod cannot reciprocate the desire for closer unity and co-operation. At the same time the Moderator expressed his firm conviction that the ultimate result of present controversy must be union, not wider severance. The annual missionary meeting held in connection with the Synod was very largely attended. The income for Foreign missions amounted to the large sum of \$172,500. It was agreed by a vote of 145 to 118 that no change be made in the law and practice of the Church discountenancing marriage with a deceased wife's sister. Several cases of discipline were

disposed of. Upon the whole, the business of the Synod was transacted with exemplary dispatch and harmony.

UNITED STATES.—The ninety-second Session of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States met at Madison, Wisconsin, on the 20th May. In the absence of the Moderator, Dr. Jessup, of Beirut, the Rev. Dr. Eels, of California, though not a Commissioner, preached the opening sermon and presided until the election of the new Moderator. The report on HOME MISSIONS was elaborate and satisfactory. The receipts for the year, including the Sustentation Fund, were \$311,329, besides a balance of \$34,480 from the preceding year. The total expenditure was \$326,934—leaving a balance of about \$19,000 to the good. Employment had been given to 1,151 preachers, who had proclaimed the gospel in not less than 3,000 places. They had organized 247 Sabbath-schools, in which were 114,811 scholars, and 138 Churches into which 10,945 communicants had been admitted. Reference was made to the unparalleled tide of emigration westward, and the necessity of making suitable provision for the spiritual necessities of the newcomers. The FOREIGN MISSION BOARD commenced the year with a debt of \$62,532 and closed it with a balance on hand of \$6,098. The entire receipts were \$585,844. The expenses of the administration of the Fund were less than four per cent of the whole amount received. The Board has under its care 125 ordained American Missionaries, 83 ordained, and 147 licenced native preachers, 516 native lay missionaries, 12,607 communicants and 17,791 children in the schools. The report on Theological Seminaries shewed the number of students during the past year to be 510, of whom 135 have graduated. The MILEAGE COMMITTEE reported receipts for the year, \$25,518 for travel.