

the severest troubles of his lot. The prayers of his flock sometimes sound like mockery; professions of love to him and to the cause of Christ send a pang to his heart. Gladly would he engage in any other pursuit, which would supply his family; he cannot see his way clear to leave his Master's work. And so he suffers on, as far as may be, in silence; but the interest of the Church suffers with him. For a half-hearted service will show itself in a half-hearted church. Now we submit that this is the refinement of cruelty.

Meeting of Presbyterian Committees.

ONE of the most encouraging signs of the times, and one of the most hopeful evidences of the growth and prosperity of Religion in the Provinces, more especially among Presbyterians, is to be found in the ardent desire which is now felt and manifested in each of these denominations, to draw nearer to each other, and to co-operate with each other in Education, in Missions, in Sabbath Observance, and other important Religious undertakings, as far as practicable.

It is believed that without a complete and entire incorporation, which, however pleasant and desirable, may not for some time be accomplished, there are a number of very interesting subjects, to some of which we have now alluded, on which all parties are nearly if not altogether of the same mind, and that by meeting together and deliberating on these great questions, on which we are all mutually agreed, the way will be paved in due time for a better understanding, and a closer approximation than has hitherto existed.

We should think that all the true friends of Religion in our different churches would approve of this proposal, as truly laudable and praiseworthy, and would encourage by their influence and prayers the office-bearers of our Church Courts, in giving their sanction and assistance to such an important movement. In such a peculiar and delicate affair as this, where past offences are to be buried and long continued grievances to be forgotten, and where cordial affection is to be restored, nothing is to be gained by coercion or worldly policy, but everything by christian wisdom and brotherly kindness, by meekness and by the spirit of love and of a sound mind. It is only when God shall put it into our hearts to unite, that the union will be consummated; and no well-wisher to our Churches would desire to see such an object accomplished in any other manner, or in any other spirit. From the progress which has already been made in this good work, we think that appearances are truly encouraging, and the most favorable results may confidently be anticipated.

It is known that regular Committees have been annually appointed at the meeting of our respective Synods, to deliberate with each other on this question. In consequence of the interviews held by deputation with the different Church Courts last summer, it was considered advisable that some proceeding of a more practical and tangible character than a fruitless correspondence should be attempted. A united meeting of the members of all the three committees was suggested, and by

mutual agreement appointed to be held in Halifax in the beginning of last month. The meeting was held according to agreement, on Wednesday the 6th of February, and was continued by adjournment till Saturday, the 9th of that month. There was as full an attendance as could be expected at that season of the year by members living at a distance.

The Church of Scotland was represented by the Rev. John Martin, the Moderator of the Synod, the Rev. John Scott, and Dr. Avery; the Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia by the Rev. Professor Ross, Revs. James Bayne, Robert Selgwick, Peter G. McGregor, and Mr. Charles Robson; and the Free Church by the Rev. Professor King, Rev. Mr. McKnight, and Alex. Farquharson, Esq. On motion Professor Ross was unanimously chosen chairman, and Mr. McKnight clerk of the meeting.

After engaging in devotional exercises conducted by Professor King, the members assembled proceeded in the most amicable manner, and with the most commendable zeal and cordiality to discuss the different propositions submitted to their notice, with as much freedom and openness of manner as if they had been intimately acquainted, and had sat together in Church Courts during the whole of their ministry. There was as might be expected wherever there is free discussion, some diversity of opinion on minor points, but not the least misunderstanding. After exhausting, as was believed, the greater number of subjects requiring attention, the members of the different committees separated in the most affectionate spirit and devotional frame of mind cherishing the hope of a speedy renewed intercourse with each other on the same delightful mission. We refrain from any further allusion to the proceedings of this meeting, as they will be reported at length to our respective Synods which we have no doubt will approve of the diligence of their committees, and lend their sanction and approbation to their united suggestions and recommendations.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

Death of the Rev. Dr. McGill.

We learn that the Rev. Dr. McGill is no more. He died quietly at noon yesterday. Since midnight on the Saturday night he has been insensible, and was never conscious. He died the death of the righteous: may our last end be like his! Montreal may well mourn his loss and mourn it sincerely. As a pious and exemplary Christian minister, his congregation will best know how to appreciate his merits: as one whose hand was open as the day to melting charity, the poor will mourn his loss. And the public in general will miss him, for, wherever there was a step to be gained in the march of social, physical or moral improvement, Dr. McGill was always ready to lend the movement a helping hand. To all our city institutions he was a large contributor; of some of them he was the support and guide; and, while we feel that our loss is his gain we cannot but pay this passing tribute to the memory of a Rev. minister and a good man.—*Montreal Transcript*.

THE LATE REV. DR. MCGILL.—We recorded yesterday the death of this excellent clergyman. There are few men who have

more endeared themselves to all with whom they were brought in contact than Dr. M.—, few who will be more missed when called away. An earnest, patient and zealous pastor of his own flock, he was also foremost in promoting the welfare of the numerous general Protestant Charities in the city. All of them will miss in him an eloquent champion of their cause, an ever willing, wise and prudent counsellor.—*Montreal Gazette*.

The Rev. Robert McGill, D.D. of St. Paul's Church, Montreal, in connection with the Church of Scotland, died on Monday last after a pastorate here of 104 years, much esteemed and deeply regretted, not only by his own people, but by a wide circle of friends, connected with other denominations, to whom his public spirit and catholicity of heart had much endeared him. Dr. M.—has been a Minister of long and high standing in Canada, having resided for 19 years in Niagara before he accepted a call to Montreal. In the former place besides his pastoral duty he edited for some time, we believe, a Magazine in connection with the denomination to which he belonged; and in Montreal he has taken an interest in several of the Catholic Religious Societies, and in various movements for the extension and improvement of education and other philanthropic and religious objects. The disease, by which Dr. M.—was cut off in his 59th year, was congestion of the brain.—*Montreal Witness*.

Turkey.

CONCESSIONS TO CHRISTIANS.

The *Times* Constantinople correspondent writing on the 28th ult., says:—After the late Conference on the Fourth Point had taken place between the representatives of England, France, and Austria on the one hand, and the Grand Vizier and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the other, the former acting in concert drew up a note, in which they embodied the general ideas and principle they wished to propose to the Turkish Government on the subject. Lord Stratford, who had taken the lead in this matter all along, drew up the original document, which, after a few alterations from his colleagues, was accepted by the Porte and in this amended form transmitted to the Porte on the 22nd instant. This document, though only containing the general principles which, according to the Ambassadors, were to be followed in the amelioration of the condition of Christians in Turkey, is of considerable length, and touches on many subjects which do not indeed directly belong to the question, but without the regulation which was thought possible to make any permanent amelioration. I daresay the document was printed and submitted to Parliament, containing a question not only interesting to England, but the whole of Europe; meantime, I will give you its most prominent points, as I have been able to ascertain them.

The document begins by saying that the time has come when the Turkish Government in consideration of the service rendered to Turkey by the Allies, as well as in its well-understood interest, should make changes in her internal institutions, which the one side might satisfy the wishes of the Mussulman subjects of the Porte, and of