

mass of Presbyterianism, without national prestige or territorial privileges. And instead of seeing bonds in such things, the Church recognises in them the charter of its national prerogatives and liberties. There was never truer talk than all this nonsense about liberty apart from connection with the State. Men would require to shut their eyes altogether to believe in it. No Church can cut itself free from civil law, and the best security for liberty within the Church is an intelligent and rational connection with the national Legislature, guaranteeing it free action and the individual rights of its office-bearers and members. The national Church is satisfied with its liberty in this respect; it can never consent willingly to forego its national position and guarantees. These admitted, it is willing to unite practically,—to unite in all respects as far as possible with all other churches. But it cannot seek union through its own destruction as a national institution. The Committee on Union is a practical evidence of the breadth and fervency of its Christian spirit. It is well, therefore, that it should be maintained, and that it should continue to labour in its vocation. If the hand which it holds out is not lapsed, this is not its fault. It is good to act a Christian part even when the face is turned away, and the hand is not stretched out in return.

The reports of the Missionary Schemes of the Church given in at the Assembly will be afterwards severally noticed, so far as necessary, in our pages. We will only say, in the meantime, that never was there better speaking in any General Assembly in reference to these Schemes. There was a commendable absence of mere generalities; and the great features in the progress of the Home and Foreign Missionary work of the Church were brought out with admirable clearness and force. The address of Dr. Stevenson of Dalry in moving the Home Mission Report, of Dr. Macleod in moving the Report of the Committee on Christian Life and Work, and of Dr. Watson, in speaking of our Foreign Mission, were all most stimulating, and left the very best impression of the real amount of work the Church is doing, and how many ministers and office-bear-

ers it has able, not merely to work for it, but to *speak* for it with impressive and eloquent earnestness when occasion requires. The criticisms to which the Reports were severally subjected were of advantage, in some cases they provoked some feeling. As the Convener of the Home Mission Committee said, every Scheme courts the most rigorous inquiry into all its operations. Even sharp criticism, well directed, always does good in the end. It lets in the light of free discussion on all the work of the several Committees; it gives a vent to what is said in parish or presbytery; it makes plain, very often, how much there is to be said for the special manner in which the Committee has done its work; and especially it serves as a guide to the acting members of Committees as to what lines of Christian enterprise and action appear to the Church at large to be most useful or necessary. Every Convener will hail guidance of this kind; and our Schemes will be more prosperous than ever, we are satisfied, from all the inquiry, criticism, and discussion which they evoked during the last General Assembly.

OUR NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

ERROMANGA.

In a recent letter, Rev. Mr. Robertson, (who has been on a brief furlough to Australia), states that he has secured an admirable boat for the use of the Erromanga mission at a cost of £46 stg. Mr. and Mrs. R. greatly enjoyed the change and rest of their Australian visit, after five and a half years of steady work on Erromanga. During the past five years, the island had been visited by three terrible hurricanes, one of which destroyed the mission premises. Floods and tidal waves also injured the Church and school oftener than once. Scenes such as these are trying to mind and body. Mr. Robertson's children needed a change of climate for the benefit of their health. Mr. R. expects to take the *Acts* back with him, printed in the language of Erromanga, and also a reprint of the Catechism prepared by the late Mr. Gordon. The year 1877 has been the most successful yet in Erromanga. The missionary