

Gleanings.

CANADIAN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

[The U. P. Magazine (Edinburgh) for February, giving an extract from our pages, setting forth the progress made towards union with our Free Church brethren, kindly refers to our church as follows. The passage is sufficiently complimentary to ourselves, but we quote it, believing that it will be interesting, and, we hope, stimulating to our readers.]

“Our Canadian brethren now constitute a numerous and powerful ecclesiastical body. The field over which they are scattered is immense, extending from Montreal and New Glasgow to London and Chatham, and from St. Catherines to Owen's Sound. We are glad to hear of the accessions that are ever and anon being made to their number,—of stations, one after another, attaining to the point of self support,—of expanding missionary exertion,—and of preachers, trained at their own theological hall, going forth to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus. We feel obliged to friends in that quarter for keeping us acquainted with their movements by transmission of Synod minutes and other papers, and especially of their *Magazine*, which, in point of typographical execution, literary taste, and theological lore, is in the highest degree creditable to its editor and contributors. Of the *Magazine* the latest number but one which we have received, informs us of the progress which our brethren have made towards union with the Free Church. When in this country recently, Dr. Burns of Toronto expressed himself warmly (so it is rumoured) in favor of such a union; and we trust a consummation so devoutly to be wished, will in due time be satisfactorily realised.”

REV. DR. ROBERT LEE'S SERMON AT BALMORAL.

By Her Majesty's command a sermon, preached before the Court in the parish church of Crathie, on the 11th October, has just been published. The author is Dr. Robert Lee, the Professor of Biblical Criticism in the University of Edinburgh, and the subject is—“What Christianity teaches respecting the Body.” Dr. Lee shows that the care of the body is declared in the Bible to be a Christian duty, and that the manner in which this care is to be bestowed is taught by God in the uniformity and constancy of the laws of nature. By violating those laws an enormous amount of misery and premature death are occasioned. “It is reckoned,” says Dr. Lee, “that *one hundred thousand* persons die annually in England of preventible diseases. In the same proportion more than a *million and a quarter* must die annually from the same causes in Europe. . . . Probably not fewer than four hundred thousand men were killed during the late Russian war. But during the same period ten times as many died in Europe alone, from preventible diseases. The slaughter of four millions of persons during three years in a war against health! So appalling a fact is surely deserving the earnest attention, not only of governors, politicians, and philanthropists, but of all men who profess Christianity, and especially of those who are appointed to teach it; because the laws of health, through disobedience to which such multitudes perish, are God's laws, for he not only ordains them, but he executes them impartially and universally before our eyes, and upon ourselves.” Facts leading to similar conclusions, but of a more encouraging character, are then briefly presented. Reference is made to the increased duration of human life in this country within the present century, as shown by the statistics of Life Insurance Companies. The greater longevity of modern times is pointed out, not to depend upon a capriciousness in the ways of Providence, but on the communities' better acquaintance with, and observance of, the laws which determine the preservation of the body. Allusion is made to certain features in the history of the last visitation of this country by cholera. Towns and even tenements were exempted in proportion to their compliance with the requirements of the laws of health. One of the arguments with which Dr. Lee supports his proposition, that the care of the body is a religious duty, is the fact that a great part of the law which God gave, through Moses to the people of Israel, was in reality a sanitary code. The preacher then pursues his argument under the Christian dispensation.—*Christian Times*.