

nation can be obtained, and the impunity with which it can be dispensed with," were touched upon, and a strong plea put forward for the value of such services, as well as for securing thorough information as to the character and qualifications of those seeking such recognition from other churches and ministers.

4. A few words on Church worship and Church work, closed this valuable address. The highest place was vindicated for worship, above even preaching. The liberty was asserted for each Church to order its own worship, in its own way. And the circumstances of the time were alleged to be favourable to the adoption of the modes considered in themselves to be the best, irrespective of former antagonisms and mere usage.

The matter of a *Model Trust Deed* received careful attention, on the report of a special Committee. It is not to be acted on till the May meeting.

The Constitution of the Union was also reconsidered. There is a desire on the part of many, to admit any member of a Church, as a personal member of the Union, while others desire that the body should have a strictly representative character. This question was also adjourned until the next meeting. Arrangements were also proposed for securing more time at the meetings, for the discussions of the various matters brought forward, and it was suggested that the members should meet in "Sections" to take up the different classes of subjects—such as church polity and arrangements, church extension, the ministry and colleges, and education.

The usual meeting was held for the enforcement of Congregational principles, but the addresses, though admirable, cannot be condensed within our limits. It was noticeable that they dealt with the development of the churches from within, rather than with their opposition to those without.

The Pastors' Retiring Fund is growing, already amounting to £35,000, and Dr. Ferguson hopes to make it £100,000.

A numerous delegation from the United Presbyterian Synod in England, attended, and spoke much of a possible union between the two bodies some day. Dr. Vaughan spoke in reply, saying, "I think the time is coming when there will be a need of all good men to be banded together, for the defence of God's truth. I have a strong impression, that, whether I live to see it or not, the great question of church and state, will give place to another question—God's truth, or the Devil's lie, for the world. If that time is to come, there is not a nation on God's earth, that will do battle in that cause, better than the Scottish nation."

We can find room for no more particulars this month.

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PERSECUTION OF TURKISH CHRISTIANS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.—Mohammedanism is essentially a persecuting religion. It first won its way by conquest, giving to every vanquished enemy the choice of the "Koran or death;" and it aimed to keep all the converts so gained by inflicting death on every apostate. But since (within the present century) the civilisation of Western Europe has penetrated into Turkey, the noble principle of religious liberty has come in its train. The toleration of the religious worship of foreigners was long ago conceded; and during the Crimean war, when Turkey was under so strong obligations to France and Britain, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe secured the promulgation of the celebrated *Hatti Scherif*, according to a Mohammedan convert to Christianity protection in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property. But the decree was obtained only under strong pressure. It was bitterly opposed by the religious authorities,