

gree more appropriate for the performances of a College Glee Club than the selection of operatic or other high-class music.

THE decision of the Privy Council in England that the Quebec Legislature had not the power to amend the act under which a Board of Trustees administered the Temporalities Fund of the Presbyterian Church, has created quite a flutter among certain classes in the community. Some supposed the decision to mean that the fund was to go into the pockets of the Stalwarts, who call themselves "the Church of Scotland," on the same principle with which the three tailors of Tooley Street styled themselves "the people of Great Britain." The same gentlemen were also to get the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. And why not? They have as much right to the one Fund as the other. Here are seven or eight clergymen who never owned the Temporalities Fund, who had only a life interest in it, (which life interest was religiously preserved by the Act of Union), claiming the whole sum, and declaring that twelve-thirteenths of their brethren shall not receive a cent of the Fund unless they bow to the minority in the perpetuation of the memory of old-world feuds in Canada. The decision was also supposed by some wisecracks to hand over Queen's College to the same select body! Others wrote that it meant the dissolution of the Union. One editor affirmed that "the work of church-making in this respect has suffered early annihilation." And more journalistic rubbish of this type has found its way into the public press, sometimes too with the pious ascription, *Laus Deo!*

What then does the decision mean? Speaking with submission, as the text has not yet reached Canada, simply this: That the lawyers whom the Church consulted were mistaken. The Synod wished to go

to the Dominion Parliament for legislation; but the lawyers said that the Provincial Legislatures had jurisdiction in the matter, and to these Legislatures accordingly the Synod's committee went. When they reported their action, the Synod still desired a Dominion Act, but it was too late. The Minister of Justice had sanctioned the Provincial Acts as constitutional, and to have then passed a Dominion Act covering the same ground, would have been to stultify himself and invade what was believed to be the region of Provincial law-making. The Synod would have had less difficulty in getting legislation from the Dominion than from the separate Provinces. There will be still less difficulty now, for the Union is an accomplished fact and has been so for years. On the faith of its new arrangements have been made, new contracts entered into, new endowments secured, and to disturb these is an impossibility. Notice has accordingly been given in the *Gazette* that acts are to be sought at the approaching session of the Dominion Parliament to accomplish what every one thought had been already accomplished. To imagine that there will be any difficulty in getting this legislation would be to imagine that there is no sense of justice in the House of Commons, and to forget that there are half a million Presbyterians in Canada.

### ❖SCIENTIFIC.❖

\* \* In this column the JOURNAL will occasionally publish brief articles on popular scientific subjects.

#### THE STRUCTURE OF THE EYE.

THE eye is an assemblage of lenses which concentrate the rays emanating from external objects on a delicate tissue of nerves, the *retina*; there forming an exact image or representation of the object perceived. By the vitality and particular structure of the retina the impression is conveyed to the brain by the optic nerve, where it is analyzed and distinguished from all other sensations entering by other channels. Generally speaking, the eye is spherical, but the front is considerably more prominent