

of Faith, the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, the Form of Presbyterian Church Government, the Directory for the Public Worship of God, and the Second Book of Discipline, are the subordinate standards of the church.

"The subordinate standards above enumerated are received with the following explanations:—

"1. That, while the Confession of Faith contains the creed to which, as to a confession of his own faith, every office-bearer in the church must testify in solemn form his personal adherence, and while the Catechisms are sanctioned as directories for catechising the Directory for Public Worship, the Form of Church Government, and the Second Book of Discipline are of the nature of regulations rather than tests, and are not to be imposed by subscription upon ministers and elders.

"2. That in adopting these standards this church is not to be held as countenancing persecuting or intolerant principles, or any denial or invasion of the rights of private judgment.

"3. That, by Christ's appointment, the Church is spiritually independent, and is not subject in its own province, and in the administration of its own affairs, to the jurisdiction or authoritative interference of the civil power.

"V. That the church asserts for itself a separate and independent position in relation to other churches; and that its highest court shall possess supreme and final jurisdiction over its inferior judicatories, office-bearers and members.

"VI. That this church shall receive ministers and probationers from other Presbyterian churches applying for admission, on their affording satisfactory evidence of their qualifications and eligibility, and subscribing the formula."

The most recent, and the grandest Union, was that effected at Pittsburg, in November, 1869, between the Old and New "Schools" in the United States. The Basis is short, and in admirable contrast with the earlier attempts of the two Assemblies. Here it is:—"The Union shall be effected on the doctrinal and ecclesiastical Basis of our common standard; the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments shall be acknowledged to be the inspired Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice; the Confession of Faith shall continue to be sincerely received and adopted, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and the government and discipline of the Presbyte-

rian Church in the United States shall be approved as containing the principles and rules of our polity."

The Free, the United, and the Reformed Presbyterian Churches of Scotland are now discussing the propriety of uniting on the Basis of the "Standards pure and simple."

The following is the Basis proposed for the four Churches that recently met by their representatives at Montreal:—

I. That the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, being the infallible Word of God, are the supreme standard of faith and manners.

"II. That the Westminster Confession of Faith shall be the subordinate standard of this Church, it being understood,—

"1. That full liberty of opinion in regard to the power and duty of the civil magistrate in matters of religion, as set forth in said Confession, be allowed;—and

"2. That the use of the Shorter Catechism be enjoined as an authoritative exposition of doctrine for the instruction of the people.

"3. That this Church shall maintain fraternal relations with Presbyterian Churches holding the same doctrine, government and discipline, and that ministers and probationers shall be received into the Church subject to the such regulations as the church may from time to time adopt.

These documents will be useful for study and reference during the coming year.

### THE COLLEGE LIBRARY.

A month or two ago we published an Appeal from the Librarian of the College for aid in books or in money to buy books. The matter was before the Synod, and the Rev. John Forrest was authorized to issue the appeal referred to, and it was hoped that there would be a liberal response. We are sorry to say that hitherto the response in money has been *nil*, and in books very little better than *nil*.

Now, the matter requires to be looked into, gravely and earnestly. Books are to students what implements of husbandry are to the farmer. Our young men must have books; and if they are to be abreast of the age in which God has placed them they must have the books that are being now published.

The Library is large and respectable, and