

in the church courts. Yet out of controversy and debates, it is generally believed, will emerge a strong United Free Presbyterian Church for Scotland.

Meantime, the Established Church is wisely taking steps to expand her usefulness and to entrench herself in the affections of the people, by renewed activity, knowing that her privileged position can only be maintained by a faithful discharge of her duty as a great church. To some the proposed union has only one meaning; disestablishment. But there is no reason why that object should be the prime motive in the union movement. There are reasons too numerous to mention why there should be union, and with the "Auld Kirk" herself rests the answer to the demand for disestablishment, for by her efficiency will she be judged.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

THE meeting of the British Association this week is one of the notable events this year in Canada. Not only are men of first rank in the world of science present, but to many of them Canada with her wealth of natural resources, her commerce, her churches and her schools, is as great a revelation as are the learning and distinction of the visitors, a source of inspiration to Canada. To them we look for weighty, epoch-making utterances on the problems of Science, to us they look for social entertainment, and for the pleasures of travel in a new country. The advantages will be mutual for when it comes to hospitality and country Canada is quite at home. Festivities will mingle with the abstruse discussions and a holiday atmosphere will lighten the labor of the savants of the sections.

The public interest in the meeting is very gratifying. The important character of the Association has been fully recognized and the preparations have been on a worthy scale. It is equally gratifying that so many distinguished men have been attracted by the fame of Canada. There can be no doubt that the impressions they will carry back with them will be of value to themselves and to Canada. It is well that we should be known, as we are at home, by our kinspeople in the motherland. Many wrong views of Canadians as a people and of Canada as a country will be removed by this visit to the advantage of both.

One object of these meetings is to popularize science. Many discoveries have been for the first time made public at the meetings of the British Association, and they have proved to be a powerful stimulus for original research, but the results of study are often given forth in a popular form so that the public in attendance, whether deeply versed in the subject or not, are able to derive considerable benefit from the papers read and the discussions on them. Men of the eminence of Lord Kelvin, Lord Lister, Sir John Evans, and others who are attending the meeting, while among the most profound thinkers of their age, are usually easily followed when they address a mixed audience such as assemble on these annual occasions.

The result ought to be a stimulus to Canadian scholarship for years to come. The promoters of the meeting evidently have had that object in view, and the governments which assisted with liberal grants of money justify their action by the hope that in the schools and universities a quickening will be experienced, while trade and commerce will benefit from the better understanding of the country to be gained by so important a body of men as the Association.

BUSINESS AND PLEASURE.

REV. Professor Gordon, D.D., the ex-Moderator, has taken advantage of the summer vacation to make a tour of Cape Breton in the interests of the Halifax College. The press gives accounts of his travels which have had the effect of arousing the hospitable Gaels of the Cape to unusual interest in the College. The best results are expected to follow. The professor not only travelled among the people, but held meetings and spoke to them at "Kirk and Presbytery" and was everywhere most kindly received. He has written long descriptive letters to the *Witness*, which show that Cape Breton must be a most delightful place in which to spend a summer holiday. The wonderful scenery, the not less wonderful ozone, the sea breezes, and the sylvan beauty of the scenery, the sterling character of the men and women—the soul of hospitality and courtesy—are known to many who never visited Cape Breton. Canada is rich in pleasant places, but few if any afford an equal variety of attractions as Cape Breton, and should Professor Gordon's example be followed by weary, rest-seeking ministers, in the summer time, they would find charms not possessed by Orchard Beach or any of the other lively seaside watering places.

THE REOESSIONAL.

THE manner in which Kipling's Jubilee song has touched the public heart is significant. Its dominant note is a religious one, and it is a religious chord it has struck in the conscience of the nations. Of the many tributes the occasion called forth none has come from the pen of any poet with the same effect as Kipling's, and it is surely a good sign when its high tone is recognized and acknowledged generally. The reception it has had is evidence that there is a responsive public to the great message when well delivered and that being so, the ministers of the Gospel should be stimulated to deeper study of their great theme and to harder labor in the preparation of their divine message. Kipling is one of the hardest of literary workers. The verses that charm so much, and that seem to come so readily from the pen, are the result of mental travail of the severest kind. As Macaulay in his sentences, so Kipling in his verse reaches his finish by the most difficult possible paths. There is no shirking hard work, no seeking for a royal road; by toil and unceasing effort the goal of excellence is reached. So all who succeed in the preaching of the Gospel and in social reforms. To natural talent must be added incessant application and drudgery and where the mental soil is cultivated thus, the fruit is ever tempting and sweet.

Referring to Kipling's industrious habits the *Spectator* says that he is a "conscious artist in words, who has laid himself out to study language as men study a science, and to wring from it all its secrets and all its latent possibilities." To this the *Independent* adds that he is no mere artist believing in art for art's sake only. "The artist does not eat up the man. No matter how rollicking he may be at times, there is in his undernature a calm seriousness which is thoroughly English and which gives the same inspiration to the poet as inspires the preacher. The British heart responds to the warning 'Lest we Forget;' and it is this national sense that all their success is the gift of God and that they are responsible for its use that saves us from the fear that wealthy, commercial, bartering and colonizing England is going the way of Carthage." This is an American tribute to Britain which we believe to be well-deserved and from which satisfaction can be pardonably derived.