

only difficulty remaining to be adjusted is with reference to the mode of obtaining ministers for the United church. At a conference held for the purpose of consummating the union in Sydney in November last, the several parties intimated the dissolution of their peculiar relations to churches in Britain, with the view of effecting a union of the whole into one body. The proposed basis of union was considered, and unanimously adopted. The basis consists of five articles. The first two declare the Word of God to be supreme, and the Confession of Faith, Catechisms &c., to be the subordinate standards of the United church. The third article is in the following terms:—That with regard to the doctrines contained in these subordinate standards relative to the power and duty of the civil magistrate in matters of religion, the office-bearers of this church, in subscribing these standards, are not to be held as countenancing any persecuting or intolerant principles, or as professing any views in reference to the power and duty of the civil magistrate inconsistent with the spiritual independence of the church and the right of private judgment.

The two concluding articles refer to the independence of the church and the reception of ministers. Among the names of those present at the conference on the part of the Synod of Eastern Australia, we observe that of Rev. A. C. Geikie, formerly of Berlin.

PRESBYTERIAN UNION IN NEW ZEALAND.—The Presbyterians in New Zealand have formed themselves into one body. The General Assembly of the New Zealand Presbyterian church was formed at Auckland in November last. There is no intermediate court between the Presbyteries and General Assembly. They have entered on their work with vigour. One of their number goes to the United Kingdom, with the view of obtaining an increased number of ministers.

INNOVATIONS IN PUBLIC WORSHIP.—The Rev. Dr. Begg, gave notice at a recent meeting of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, of an overture to the General Assembly for the adoption of some effectual plan to prevent the introduction into any of the congregations of the church of unauthorized innovations in the public worship of God.

MAGEE COLLEGE, LONDONDERRY.—The Presbytery of Derry have unanimously agreed to request the trustees of the Magee College to give notice to the General Assembly that the College will be ready for the reception of classes, before November 1864, and to urge the Assembly to hold a special meeting in September, for the purpose of appointing Professors.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DERRY.—This place of worship after undergoing extensive repairs, at a cost of £1,500, was lately opened for public worship. The Rev. W. McClure, one of the pastors of the Collegiate charge, and the respected Secretary of the Colonial Mission Bond, preached in the forenoon, and the Rev. R. Smyth in the evening.

DEATH OF MINISTERS.—We have to note the death of several ministers of influence and usefulness in Scotland. Among these we may mention the Rev. J. Smyth, of Dunbarton,—Rev. Dr. Shaw, of Whitburn, an able divine, whose exposition of the Confession of Faith is well known,—the Rev. W. Logan of Sanquhar, and the Rev. A. Reid, of Portsoy. In the United States we notice the Death of the Rev. Dr. Baird, and the Rev. Dr. E. Robinson.

PROTESTANTISM AT THE ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES.—The Rev. Dr. Begg and Mr. Badenoch, have lately visited Cambridge, with the view of urging the establishment of lectures, open to all the students, on the subject of Protestantism and the present Popish attempts at aggression. It is said that the visit was well received.

THE CARDROSS CASE.—The Cardross case in its new form is now again before the court of session. The pursuer, Mr. McMillan, who was deposed by the General Assembly of the Free Church, for immorality, and who seeks to have the sentence set aside by the civil courts, has shown perseverance worthy of a better cause.