

THE UNION DEBATE IN THE F. C. ASSEMBLY.

We find the following interesting account of the Union discussion in the F. C. Assembly in the *Edinburgh Weekly Review*, and reproduce it here for the benefit of our readers:—

This discussion terminated at ten o'clock on Wednesday night, and is a memorable one for the Church—memorable for its tone and character, and for the importance of the issues on which it turned. The outward features of the event bore evidence of the intensity of the interest which attached to the proceedings. From as early as eight in the morning of Wednesday people streamed towards the Assembly Hall. Most of them had the appearance of repressed feeling, evidenced by such small tokens as the firm nervous clutch of the stick or umbrella, or whatever substance the hand found most convenient. In the quadrangle and lobbies during the whole of the day little knots were gathered discussing the prospects of the result, each group containing one or more persons intent on contributing to the elucidation of the subject, and hearing the latest in the way of rumor. Within the hall the sight was picturesquely interesting. Every inch of room from floor to ceiling was occupied, and through every doorway, window, or chink, where view or audience could be obtained, faces were straining anxiously to the centre of interest. The east and north galleries were crowded with a brilliant assemblage, mainly of ladies, while the west and north were filled with a sombre crowd of the other sex. At ten in the morning Sir Henry Moncreiff took the chair, the Moderator being detained elsewhere. The devotional exercises were conducted by Sir Henry with peculiar fervour. There was something in the circumstances very saddening in the grand old hymn selected—

"Behold how good a thing it is
And how becoming well,
Together such as brothers are
In unity to dwell."

After devotions, Dr. Candlish rose and made a short explanation for the purpose of making clear a matter about the terms of the overture which his motion contemplated, and this explanation was by arrangement accepted by Mr. William Balfour, who had a motion on paper for the purpose of clearing up the matter. The House then entered upon the business of the day. Sir Henry Moncreiff, as clerk, called for the report of the Committee on Union and the relative documents, and straightway Dr. Robert Buchanan, as convener, came forward to the Clerk's table, and made his statement. The House was at the time precisely in the condition in which Dr. Buchanan can address it with greatest effect. The temperature was still low, the Assembly cool, both mentally and physically, and the fine old leader proceeded in his calmest and clearest manner to explain and commend the report which he was submitting. At times he rose high above the level he had prescribed for himself, and carried the Assembly completely with him. When, for example, in alluding to the suspension of the union negotiations, he declared that it was not the meaning of the Church to abandon the union cause, when he declared his entire want of respect for the manner in which the signatures to the memorials had been obtained; and when, by reference to his own words used in the Assembly of 1863, in which the union negotiations were opened, he threw from him the charge of shifting, and declared that the shifting had been with the agitators, whose persistently ubiquitous disturbance had brought about the existing state of matters, he fairly roused the Assembly into demonstrations of enthusiastic concurrence. An attempt by Mr. Nixon to limit the course of the address brought down reprobation from all parts of the House. The impression on the Assembly was that which results from clear, calm, invincible reasoning, and left their minds free to listen dispassionately to the mover of the union motion. Dr. Candlish rose about noon to move the motion of the majority. Although still bearing traces of his late illness, he was full of energy, and with the diminution in the fire of his oratory, there was a subdued style which was not inappropriate to the circumstances in which he spoke. During his address there was throughout the House the most profound stillness, broken at intervals by rounds of applause, which showed that the veteran still retained his old power of touching men's hearts and carrying their convictions. Nothing could exceed the moderation of this speech, and not a word passed from his lips indicative of unkindly feeling or want of complete consideration for the various sections of the minority. It was not intended to be one of Dr. Candlish's most magnificent efforts. The pinions of his eloquence were under the restraint of the deep solemnity of the occasion, and that greatest triumph of oratory was achieved in which the brilliancy of the speaker is sacrificed for the object of persuasion. Dr. Candlish was followed by the ex-Moderator, Dr. Charles Brown, of whose words it is only needful to say that they were characterized by the lucidity which is of the nature of the man. They closed with a fervent peroration in the interests of peace, and for averting scandal to religion. Up till this time the Assembly had been calm. There was nothing in the speeches of the leading style of oratory. But the opening up of the other side brought some developments of this character. We think it most charitable to say little of Mr. Nixon's speech. The excellence of that worthy gentleman's heart might be counterbalanced by a great many of the indiscretions of his tongue. We have a theory that it is a mistake to say about him that he has a great command of language, the fact being that language has a great command of him, and leads him into extravagances of speech which do not correspond with his own sentiments. On no other theory can we know the real goodness of this man—account for the violent philippic in which he indulged in proposing his motion, while declaring in terms that the motion on the other side was one which he himself could submit to, and which formed no just ground for a disruption. He was followed by Professor Swanton, whose position on this

question has been of the most extreme character—a position which has greatly diminished the influence which his learning and his high personal character might well command for him in the councils of the Church. The other speeches during the afternoon were not such as to call for remark. Mr. Shaw was not very acceptable. Dr. Thomas Smith tried hard to conciliate both sides, and with more success than usually attends efforts of this description, for his suggestion was adopted by Dr. Candlish, who, at the opening of the evening sederunt, added to his motion that the Presbytery, after finding the call to a minister of another Church to be regular, should adjourn for a fortnight, or not more than four weeks, transmitting the formulae, &c., to the minister called, and informing him that unless they hear to the contrary the Presbytery will assume that he has no difficulty.

Dr. Hugh Martin made one of those slashing speeches which we have learned to expect from him, in which he constructs a series of intellectual puzzles for the amusement of his audience, though very little for their enlightenment or edification. The Assembly laughed at and with him, and cheered, seeming generally to look upon his speech as a humorous interlude. Dr. Baith spoke at an unfortunate time, just before the adjournment, but he gave expression, in his condemnation of the means used to obtain signatures to the memorials, to a feeling which was prevalent through the great majority of the members. After the adjournment for dinner, the proceedings were reopened by Principal Lumsden in an effective speech. He was followed by Mr. Moody Stuart, and it was at this point of the discussion that the interest of the debate reached its culmination. Everybody knew that Mr. Moody Stuart might be held to represent the position of what was regarded as the weightiest, and was believed to be the most numerous section of the minority. No one supposed that he and those like him would precipitate a disruption of the Church if they could at all avoid such a result. Mr. Moody Stuart very unnecessarily, if somewhat chivalrously, took up the subject of the Highland raids, and disappointed many in appearing to justify the proceedings which shocked the moral sense of the Church during their continuance. From that subject he proceeded to the relation of the objections which had pressed on his conscience in regard to the overture. These he detailed at length, and with that acuteness which is characteristic of his arguments; and at length, to the intense relief of the whole House, he declared that the motion as now proposed by Dr. Candlish was one which he could submit to, and in which he could see no cause for disruption. He suggested an adjournment of the House in order to bring about a complete agreement on this basis. Sir Henry Moncreiff was the next speaker, and, recapitulating the tone and wishes of Mr. Moody Stuart, he addressed himself to the clearing away of the misconceptions as to the law of the Church, from which a good deal of the debate arose. Next in order came Dr. Begg, looking the picture of cheerfulness, who delivered himself of a few arguments, apparently quite indifferent as to their effect upon the Assembly, and closed by saying that if Dr. Candlish's motion, with the alteration suggested, should appear likely to afford a solution of the question he would be as delighted as any man in the House. Dr. Rainy replied to Dr. Begg, walking up and down through his argument in a most remorseless manner, and carrying the House almost entirely with him. When he pointed out that if the Church were to split on the difference between the motions of Dr. Candlish and Mr. Nixon, it would be really a separation on the question whether the documents of the Church should be sent to the minister before being called or before being inducted, the Assembly seemed completely to realize that a disruption on that point would be all too absurd. The cheers which greeted Dr. Rainy on his appearance and throughout his speech showed that his popularity as the foremost of the young Free Churchmen has suffered no abatement during the recent conflict. Dr. Samuel Miller having made a declaration similar to that of Mr. Moody Stuart, Dr. Begg announced that, having submitted the altered motion of Dr. Candlish to some of his brethren, they thought the motion afforded a fair basis for adjournment, and he asked an adjournment of the House till Thursday morning to consider the matter in conference with the whole minority. The announcement was received with demonstrations of delight from all parts of the House. Handkerchiefs and hats were waved, and grave men and staid ladies gave vent to their feelings of gratification in forms of effusive joy. Even the placid Narayan Sheshadri caught the infection, and pushed his way to the front of the Moderator's chair, with intent to address the House, but his desire was not perceived by the Moderator. The Moderator then called upon Dr. Macdonald, who offered up prayer. The great assemblage then sang the last three verses of the 72nd Psalm standing, giving it forth with earnest voices, and the meeting was closed with the Moderator's benediction. Thus ended the most momentous sederunt of the Free Church Assembly since 1843.

On Thursday the Assembly was again greatly crowded to hear the result of the conference of the brethren of the minority in regard to Dr. Candlish's motion as amended. Mr. Nixon and Dr. Begg, amidst loud applause, announced that the conference had harmoniously agreed to allow the mutual eligibility to pass, without doing more than recording their dissent. Mr. Balfour, Holyrood, said that he was one of the few who did not see the way to be clear, but if he found that he could not accept the situation, he would communicate with his Presbytery on the subject. After a few words of congratulation from Dr. Candlish, his motion was passed without a vote. Mr. Nixon and Dr. Begg dissenting for themselves and those who might adhere to them. Dr. Candlish made a declaration which had been drawn up on behalf of himself and other members of the House, and which they would ask the Assembly to grant, to insert on their record to-day. The document sets forth that the subscribers feel that the prosecution of the Union movement is not a matter of discretion with the Church,

and that the suspension of the Union negotiations is an evidence of sin and of shortcoming on the part of the human agents. Dr. Julius J. Wood and Dr. C. J. Brown then engaged in prayer, at the desire of the Moderator. Mr. Nixon gave in the report of the Education Committee, which stated that the collection on behalf of the schemes would admit of the half year's allowances being paid to the teachers in full. Mr. Nixon resigned his convener'ship. Professor Douglas submitted the report on National Education. A final deliverance was postponed. Mr. Bruce gave in the report of the Psalmody Committee. Dr. Dykes and Mr. Symington, Birkenhead, then addressed the Assembly as deputies from the English Presbyterian Church. Mr. Macgregor, missionary from that Church to Amoy, also addressed the House. Mr. D. Maclean gave in the report of the Committee on the Welfare of the Youth of the Church. In the evening, the Home Mission report was submitted by Dr. Wilson. The Assembly recommended to the members of the Church to support the scheme for raising £20,000 in Glasgow and £10,000 in Edinburgh for the erection of mission buildings for the missing population. Dr. Wilson resigned the convener'ship of the committee. Dr. McClosky addressed the Assembly on the labours of the Irish Colportage Society. The Assembly resolved to petition against the Prison Ministers' Bill. Dr. Rainy gave notice that he would move a resolution to-day declaring that the Established Church of Scotland is now indefensible on public grounds, and that the maintenance of Established Churches in this country now necessarily encouraged concurrent endorsement. Sir H. W. Moncreiff gave notice of motion to the effect that the Free Church, while renewing its protest against the Episcopalianism of the Established Church of Scotland, does not at present see its way to adopt any deliverance which contemplates disestablishment.

GRILLIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Under the ministrations of their zealous and respected Pastor, Rev. John Gray, the growth of this congregation has been marked by a steadiness which must have been highly encouraging, proving that his labors have not been either unacceptable or unprofitable. The edifice which twenty-two years ago appeared ample for their requirements, probably longer than any interested in its erection would have to do with earth, has, after two enlargements, again become too small to afford sittings for all who apply. The office-bearers found that some plan must be devised and carried out for the accommodation of those frequently applying for sittings which were not at their disposal, as the necessity of refusal was inflicting injury upon those desirous of worshipping there, and impairing the usefulness of their Pastor, who was thus debarred from reaping the full reward of his unremitting labours and faithful admonitions and instructions, both in and out of the pulpit. After mature consideration, it was deemed advisable to have plans for the further enlargement of the present building prepared, and these were submitted to the congregational meeting held last Wednesday evening, when the project proposed by the office-bearers met with general approval, and the work will be commenced as soon as possible. The proposed alterations consist in making the building wider, and an addition at each side the roof, which will be raised, to be supported by pillars, and a new front. The seats, which are now too large for four, but not quite sufficient to hold five comfortably, will also, we infer, be made a more economical size. These changes will add very much to the appearance of the church, both inside and out. By this plan as much accommodation will be secured as by the erection of a new edifice which would cost £10,000 or £12,000, and the outlay be very small in proportion. At the meeting above referred to, Rev. John Gray occupied the chair, and Mr. John Perry acted as Secretary. The following resolutions were adopted:—

Moved by Mr. T. Dallas, seconded by Mr. P. Murray.—That in view of the increased demand for sittings in the Church, and the great difficulty experienced by the office-bearers in meeting that demand, therefore, resolved, that further accommodation is necessary, and that such accommodation be obtained by enlarging the present Church.

Mr. World moved, seconded by Mr. W. Tudhope, senior.—That the plan now submitted to the congregation, and approved of by the office-bearers, be adopted.

Mr. Alport moved.—That a Building Committee be appointed to negotiate for the necessary funds, carry out and complete the proposed additions in accordance with the plan now submitted. The following parties to comprise said committee: Messrs. Jno. World, Jno. Blain, F. Hamilton, W. Tudhope, sr., J. Allan, P. Murray, M. Millar, Ed. Chas., and the mover.

On motion of Mr. Neville Miller, the thanks of the Church were tendered to Mr. F. Keen, for his generous offer of the use of his Music Hall, free, for the Sabbath services, while the work of building is in progress.

Sir Robert Kane has resigned the presidency of the Queen's College, Cork, and it is rumored that a Protestant and an Englishman is to succeed him.

The average cost for every person arrested, convicted, and sent to the penitentiary in the United States is \$1,200, while the cost of educating a boy in the public schools is only about \$400.

The Viceroy of Egypt, it is said, projects the building of a railroad from the head of Nile navigation through the great Nubian desert, into the midst of fertile Central Africa. His engineers tell him \$21,000,000 will foot the bill; but what is that for a success for the Khedive?

RUSSIA IN THE EAST.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Evening Herald* says that quietly as everything connected with the State is carried out by the Government of the Czar, and careful as all are to guard secrets, the revelation of which might entail long years of exile, yet from time to time some leak is started, and the world gets an insight into the affairs of this empire. Perhaps during the last few months more has been learned than could have been expected under the most favorable circumstances, but probably the truth is that the Muscovite cauldron is so near the boiling point that the steam has forced a vent for itself. To speak more plainly, the military and naval preparations of Russia have attained such a pitch that to disguise them altogether is no longer possible. Taught by the sad experience of the Crimea that a widely scattered population, however numerous, is, in a military sense, useless, unless means are found to mass troops quickly and in overwhelming numbers at any given point, the Russians have intersected their country with a vast web of railways, the completion of which is now only a matter of a few months, and by the aid of which they will be able with startling rapidity to concentrate the whole strength of their empire in any direction where it may be required. Fortifications have been rebuilt or repaired; they have been mounted with the best and heaviest guns, and communication with them is rapid and easy. Among other means of offence and defence it is worthy of mention that the Caspian Sea swarms with Russian war steamers, and a scheme has been set on foot to connect that lake with the Black Sea by a canal. The navy too has received much attention. It is beyond all doubt that for the last seventeen years Russia has been making preparations for war. Her present weakness lies in her finances, but it must be remembered that war is sometimes a lucrative speculation.

In the course of last year, says the Berlin correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, concessions were granted to eleven railway companies in Russia, with shares and bonds representing an aggregate capital of £16,500,000. In the same period ten joint-stock banks were established, with a capital of £2,000,000, and old banks increased their capital by about £200,000. Coal-mine companies were formed with a capital of about £2,100,000, companies for the manufacture of machinery with about £2,250,000, building companies with £1,800,000, and insurance companies with £800,000.

Miscellaneous.

Pure Gold has been merged in the Montreal Witness.

The free-stone cutters of Ottawa are on strike. They want nine hours' work per day for \$3.

Lady Mary Herbert, sister of the Earl of Pembroke, has entered the Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Gavan Duffy, the late Premier of Victoria, has been knighted, and Professor Owen created a C. B.

Mr. Witton, M.P. for Hamilton, has been appointed Director of the Canadian Commission to the Vienna Exhibition.

After an experiment of about one thousand years, the office of beadle has been abolished as needless in the parish of Islington, Eng.

Have patience awhile; slanders are not long lived. Truth is the child of Time; ere long she shall appear to vindicate thee.—*Kant*.

A Paris paper says the Emperor William is incapacitated for further duty, and the Crown Prince will soon be proclaimed regent.

The Marquis of Lorne's scheme to establish a fund out of which to augment the small salaries of clergymen of the Church of England, is not received with favor.

Three missionaries and three teachers are connected with the Presbyterian Chinese Mission in San Francisco. The mission also employs one Chinese preacher and one Chinese assistant teacher.

The Chinese are flocking into California faster than ever. Already they number one quarter of the male adults in the State. What most manifestly needs to be done is to Christianize the other three-fourths of the people there.

"La Grande Guerre Ecclesiastique," a pamphlet published by the Hon. L. Desseaulles, has been interdicted by the R. C. Bishop of Montreal, and *La Minerve* has been threatened with ecclesiastical censure for publishing extracts from it.

The emigration drain is absolutely alarming. The people are leaving the country in crowds—a respectable, well-dressed, intelligent, and orderly population are abandoning their native land in countless numbers.—*Limerick Reporter*.

Father Hyacinthe was to have visited a certain parish near Geneva recently, but altered his mind on being warned that he would be roughly handled. It was well that he did not go, for it is said that about one hundred women were waiting for him, with their hands full of pepper to throw into his eyes. Several were arrested.

The London papers state that the clergy and Jesuits of Belgium are making great efforts to organize a pilgrimage into the heart of France, to pray for the restoration of the temporal power of the Pope. Each province of the realm is invited to dedicate a banner to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

The U. S. census gives some interesting items about the Jews. In 1850 they numbered 18,271 members in the country, and in 1870, 78,265. In 1850 they had but 80 Synagogues, and in 1870 they had 162. Such progress as this shows the attraction this country has offered this people. In Philadelphia they have eight synagogues, and in New York twenty-six. Metropolitan centres appear to be their favorite fields, and they will be found strong, relatively, in all the leading cities of the nation.

Commercial.

B. A. PRESBYTERIAN OFFICE, June 20, 1873. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. PRODUCE.

The past week has been an extremely dull period in this market, prices of grain, however, do not show much change. Accounts of the growing crops are unfavorable. Stocks stood on the 23rd inst. as follows:—Flour, 11,597 barrels; wheat, 214,202 bushels; oats, 21,371; barley, 4,942; peas, 34,673; rye 620 and corn 150. There were in sight on the 14th inst. 5,524,000 bushels of wheat and 196,000 of barley against 5,098,000 of wheat and 359,000 of barley in 1872.

There has been scarcely any business done all week, or any buyers to be found, and values have again declined. Fancy sold last week at equal to \$5.70. No. 1 super. was neglected all week until to-day, when sales were made at about \$5.10. Extra is nominal.

GRAIN.—Is scarce, firm and wanted. One car lot sold on Tuesday at \$5.15 on the track small lots sell at \$5.25 to \$5.35.

WHEAT.—There has been very little movement; but this, in the case of spring wheat in consequence of the firmness of holders, who generally stood out for \$1.25. A cargo lot of 18,000 bushels of No. 1 spring sold on Saturday at \$1.23½ f.o.b., and a couple of cars on Monday at \$1.22 f.o.b. On Tuesday a lot changed hands at \$1.23 f.o.b. For No. 3 fall \$1.24 has been offered and refused, but generally buyers and sellers are altogether apart. There was nothing doing yesterday, save spring sold on the street at \$1.16.

OATS.—Have been abundant and slow of sale. Northern sold at 38c. and Chicago at 37c. in bulk and 38c. bagged on the track. Street price 40c.

BALE.—A car of rejected sold last week at 52c. f.o.b., being the only sale reported all week. Other grades would sell at quotations. Street receipts nil.

PEAS.—Some enquiry has been heard for cargo lots, for which buyers could have been found at 61 to 65c. f.o.b. On the street 60c. is paid.

PROVISIONS.

BUTTER.—A few small lots of new have come to hand and have sold at 14c. for selected and 13½c. for store-packed.

CHEESE.—Small lots sell readily at 12 to 13c. Eggs.—Receipts have fallen off and are insufficient. Lots are up to 12 to 12½c.

PORK.—The demand has improved; a good deal has sold at \$18.25 to \$19.

BACON.—Two cars of Cumberland sold at 8c.; small lots are unchanged, smoked has sold at 9½c.; hams are firm; a lot of 300 canvassed sold at 13½c.

LARD.—Is firm, 50 tins sold at 10c.

HIDES, SKINS AND WOOL.

HIDES.—Are quiet and weak at 7 to 8c. Calfskins are unaltered at 11c.

LAMBSKINS.—Receipts are increasing, but prices have risen to 25 to 35c. Pelts are abundant but unchanged at 20c.

WOOL.—Receipts have been small and prices firm. Lots of fleece sold nearly every day at 35c. to 36c., which is the present value.

FREIGHTS.

LAKE FREIGHTS.—Have been quiet; rates stand at 3c. to Oswego, and 2½c. to Kingston.

GRAND TRUNK R. R. RATES.—Summer rates from Toronto stand as follows:—To Halifax, 95c. for flour and 45c. for grain; to St. John, 90c. for flour and 43c. for grain; to Montreal, 35c. for flour, and 18c. for grain; to Portland, 75c. for flour and 38c. for grain; to New York, 75c. for flour and 38c. for grain; to Boston, Soc. or flour and 40c. for grain.

THROUGH RATES TO ENGLAND.—Flour 5s 6d. stig. per barrel to Liverpool or Glasgow; grain 10s. 6d. per 480 lbs.; butter, lard or cheese, 62s. 6d. per 2,240 lbs. to Liverpool, or Glasgow, and 67s. 6d. to London; boxed meats 55s. 6d. to Liverpool, or Glasgow, and 62s. 6d. to London.

ENGLISH MARKETS.

The following table shows the prices of the undermentioned goods in the English markets on this day week and to-day, or at the latest advices received:—

	June 25	June 11
Flour.....	28s 6d	28s 6d
Red Wheat.....	12s 0d	12s 0d
Red Winter Wheat.....	12s 2d	12s 2d
White do.....	11s 11d	12s 1d
Club do.....	12s 4d	12s 6d
Corn.....	26s 9d	26s 6d
Barley.....	3s 6d	3s 6d
Oats.....	3s 2d	3s 2d
Peas.....	37s 0d	37s 0d
Pork.....	63s 0d	62s 0d
Bacon.....	37s 0d	37s 0d
Lard.....	38s 6d	39s 0d
Cheese.....	66s 6d	67s 0d

FLOUR, f. o. c.

Extra.....	\$6 25	to 5 30
Fancy.....	5 70	5 75
Spring Wheat, extra.....	5 25	5 30
No. 1 Super.....	5 10	5 20
Oatmeal.....	5 10	5 15
Cornmeal, small lots.....	2 85	3 00

GRAIN, f. o. c.

Fall Wheat, No. 1.....	1 35	1 37
" No. 2.....	1 30	1 32
" No. 3.....	1 23	1 26
Treadwell.....	1 20	1 25
Spring Wheat, No. 1.....	1 23	1 25
" No. 2.....	1 20	1 22
Oats.....	37	38
Barley, No. 1.....	58	60
" No. 2.....	52	55
Peas.....	62	65
Corn.....	60	60

PROVISIONS.

Butter, new, per pound.....	14	15
" round lard, medium.....	10	13
" inferior.....	5	09
Cheese, new, in small lots.....	12	09
Recon's Royal Annas.....	none	
Pork, mrs., per barrel.....	18	00
	19	00