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Ecclesiastical News.

REV. WILLIAM HANNA, D. D., the accomplished son-in-law and biographer of Dr. Chalmers died on the 24th of May, in the 74th year of his age. He was a native of Belfast, and a son of the late Dr. Samuel Hanna, minister of Rosemary Street Church, in that city. He received his theological education in Scotland, and was married to the eldest daughter of the eminent Scottish divine shortly after the completion of his college course. His first ministerial charge was the parish of Skirling, Peebleshire. After the division of 1843 he joined the Free Church. He was translated to Edinburgh as colleague with Dr. Guthrie in Free St. John's, where he soon took a foremost place as one of the most cultured ministers of the city. Dr. Hanna retired from pastoral work some years ago, and devoted the remainder of his life to literary pursuits. His first work was the "Memoirs of Dr. Chalmers," in four volumes—one of the best written biographies of modern times. His *Life of Christ*, in six volumes, is also an admirable work. Dr. John Brown, another celebrated Edinburgh divine, best known as the author of "Rab and his Friends," has also passed away in a good old age. The annual meetings of the Supreme Courts of the Presbyterian churches on the other side of the sea have been held with no diminution of public interest. All the ecclesiastical questions that have been simmering for the past twelve months in the lower courts have been brought to the front and discussed with the warmth and outspokenness that characterize Presbyterian assemblies all the world over.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England had an important debate on subscription to the Confession of Faith by elders, but without coming to any definite finding on

the subject. Another point discussed was whether the Moderator's Chair should be open to ruling elders or not. This also was laid on the shelf. The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland met at Edinburgh, on the 8th of May. The Rev. Dr. Young, of Glasgow, was elected Moderator. The report on statistics reported a slight increase on last year's numbers. It was reported that the new Synod Hall had now been freed from debt. The report on Disestablishment was given in by Dr. Hutton, of Paisley, and was followed by a lengthened discussion in the course of which Professor Calderwood criticized the recent appeal of Professor Flint to the dissenting churches. Dr. Edmond, of the English Presbyterian Church expressed his own sympathy and that of a minority of his Church in the movement. The annual missionary meeting was very largely attended. Both the Home and Foreign Missions were reported to be in a prosperous condition. A debate on the subject of temperance ensued, when the Synod adopted a resolution recommending the members of the Church to take into serious consideration whether it was not their duty to practise total abstinence. Complaint was made of the desecration of the Sabbath in certain quarters by secular lectures in churches, of which the Synod expressed its emphatic disapproval. A report on the representation of elders was ordered to be sent down to the Presbyteries and Sessions. The number of representatives in attendance at the Synod was 763.

The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland met on the 18th of May. Dr. McDonald of North Leith was elected Moderator. In connection with the report on Religion and Morals the expediency of recognizing the "Salvation Army" in some way was discussed. The report on Jewish Missions, given in by Dr. Moody Stuart, was heard