

new convener, the Rev. J. Whigham, is beginning to tell very materially. He is still visiting in various quarters, and he had written during the quarter some 600 letters. His appointment as Commissioner of National Education, in room of the Rev. Dr. Morrell, gives great satisfaction over the whole Church. At a recent meeting of the directors of the Presbyterian Orphan Society, over which the Rev. Dr. W. Johnston has presided ever since its formation some 22 years ago, and still presides, after a scrutiny of votes, it was found that 70 families, comprising 192 children, were elected to be supported by the Fund. The good that has been done by this society since its inception has been beyond all calculation. As a rule, the orphans are put out in families. The present writer had the privilege of being present in July last, when the memorial stone was laid of an institution where girls will be trained in all the branches of service that a domestic is called upon to do when engaged by a family. The building will cost £3,000, and then it has to be furnished and supported after that.

ENGLAND.—The report that Mr. Spurgeon had left the Baptist Church has been confirmed. He has withdrawn from the fellowship of the Baptist Union, because he is of opinion that many of the ministers composing the Union, if not most of them, have denied the faith—"Calling the fall of man a fable, and denying the personality of the Holy Ghost." Mr. Spurgeon has no intention of either becoming a Presbyterian or of starting a new denomination. Mr. Spurgeon's course of action is regretted by many of his best friends, who think that his great power and influence to check the evils complained of would have been much more useful had he retained his connection with the Union than in the isolated position which by his own choice he must now occupy. The *Presbyterian Alliance* has changed the time of its proposed meeting from the 26th of June to the 3rd of July next. It will remain in session for nine days—until the 12th of July. The interim programme provides for the reading of only some eight or nine set papers in addition to the reports of committees. The delegates from the churches in the United States will be nearly all new men. The meetings are to be held in Exeter Hall.

CANADA.—The Methodist Church has lost one of its bright and shining lights by the death of Chancellor Nelles of Victoria University, Cobourg. He was one of the foremost educationists in Canada. The establishment of *Local Conference Newspapers*, in the interests of the body is a new departure indicative of the growing influence and aggressiveness of Methodism. Plans for the new Victoria College in Toronto are out; the government has offered a splendid site of 4½ acres at a nominal rent of \$1 a year; the buildings will be among

the finest in the Dominion. One half of the \$450,000 required to carry out the scheme of confederation, has already been pledged. The Baptists are embarrassed for the moment by the magnificent bequest of \$800,000 to endow the new MacMaster University, from its founder. After paying \$14,500 per annum from the proceeds of this donation, for the maintenance of the Theological College in Toronto, known as the MacMaster Hall, the balance should apparently go to support the arts department at Woodstock, where fine buildings have already been erected. But would it not be better to move the arts college to Toronto, and so have one establishment and one management? The Woodstock people do not think so. Hence the difficulty of adjusting matters so as to please all parties concerned.

UNITED STATES.—The annual meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, was held at Springfield, Mass., in the beginning of October. The annual sermon was preached by Dr. Noble of Chicago, from the text, "Thy Kingdom come." Dr. W. M. Taylor also preached to an overflow congregation from the words, "I am the light of the world." Comprehensive reports of the work for the past year were read by secretaries Clark and Smith. From these we cull the following statistics.—Number of Missions supported by the Board, 22; of stations, 89; of out-stations, 891; ordained missionaries (11 being physicians), 166; other American assistants, 291; native pastors, 155; preachers and catechists, 393; teachers, 1164; other native helpers, 325; whole number of labourers employed, 2494. The number of churches is 325; communicants, 28,042; added during the year, 2906. Rev. Dr. Storrs of Brooklyn, was elected President of the Board in room of the late Dr. Mark Hopkins, who had occupied that position for thirty years. Special interest was given to the proceedings by the keen discussion which took place on the right of the Board to determine upon the theological qualifications of all applicants for appointments as missionaries. There has arisen a party within the Board, who adhere to what is called the "New Theology"—the doctrine of a future probation (after death) of those heathen who have not in this life heard the Gospel of Christ. A large majority of the Board hold to the old belief—"that the moral conduct of men in this life, whether living and dying in heathen or Christian lands, is determinative of their condition and destiny in the life to come." The Board, therefore, resolved that all persons holding as a positive faith, or a probable hypothesis, the doctrine of a second probation, or that of this life continued into the next life, are to be regarded as ineligible to appointments as missionaries by this Board. The contention of the minority was that in adopting such a rule, the Board is acting *ultra vires*, that it has no right to dictate