

and west, an officer for each "column" preceding to advertise the visit and complete other necessary arrangements. The scheme is propounded by Commandant Herbert Booth, a son of the "General." The ancient Waldensian Church, the oldest Presbyterian body on the Continent, has agreed to unite with the Free Italian Church. Preaching in the new Presbyterian Church in Rome on Sunday, Father Gavazzi intimated that the committees of the two Churches had unanimously adopted a basis of union which would doubtless be ratified by the respective synods next autumn. The Church formed by the union will be called the Chiesa Evangelica d'Italia. Meantime a commodious new place of worship has been erected in Rome for the use of the congregation of the Free Church, of which the Rev. J. Gordon Gray is the much esteemed pastor. The remarks of our good correspondent D. have special interest for us this month.

SCOTLAND: *Feby*.—Our snowdrops and crocuses are out in full bloom, and on serene days our western weather is balmy: but two days ago the northern roads were blocked with snow. I have not seen a P. E. I. snow storm with its glorious drift for some years until this week. It was really refreshing! Glorious Gordon has gone, not so much worn out by the struggle, as betrayed by men whom he trusted; but in his death he seems grander even than in his chivalrous and Christ-like life, for he died for his "poor people" in Khartoum. This is the all-absorbing topic here now. What it involves in the destinies of the Government at home, and of peace and good rule abroad, time alone will reveal. Church news much as usual, save the following, which I enclose for your valued "Record." It is entitled: PROPOSED CONFERENCE ON PRESBYTERIAN UNION, and says that:

A largely-attended meeting of members of the three Presbyterian Churches was held in Edinburgh. Dr. Robert Young presided, and among those present were:—The Rev. Drs. Alison, Cameron, Lees and Masson, the Rev. Messrs. Henry Cowan and Graham, and Major McCarty, of the Established Church; Professor Laidlaw, the Rev. Dr. Moir Porteous, the Rev. Lewis Davidson, Captain Mackenzie, and Messrs. A. Taylor Innis, advocate, Jn. McLaren, and Jas. Sime, of the Free Church; and Professor Paterson, the Rev. James Robertson, and Mr. Thin, publisher, of the United Presbyterian Church. Letters of apology for absence were intimated from Lord Balfour, of Burleigh, and Professor Calderwood. Consideration was resumed, in private, of the following resolution, adopted at a previous meeting, viz:—"That, in view of forming a representative committee, the meeting resolves as follows:—They recall with satisfaction that many unions of divided Presbyterianism have already taken place in Scotland and throughout the world; they believe the time has arrived in Scotland when the Presbyterian Churches should be no longer separate; and while they recognize that there are difficulties in the way of such a general union, they believe these are not insuperable, and that it is the duty of all Scotsmen earnestly to consider whether some solution of the question cannot be found without delay." The following motion proposed by Professor Laidlaw, and seconded by Dr. Alison, was adopted, viz:—"That the meeting agrees to hold the proposed constitution of association as withdrawn in the meantime, and invites members of the Presbyterian Churches to assist in appointing a representative committee in terms of the above resolution, which committee shall be free to act

simply under said resolution in conferring upon the subject of union." It was agreed that the numbers of representatives should be seven from each of the three Churches, and that the proposed committee should have power to add to their number in equal proportions.

In this movement, I am sure, the Church in Canada will rejoice, and let us plead that your prayers may mingle with the prayers of all who love the prosperity of the good old Presbyterian Church in Scotland, that God may hasten that much needed union in His time. Meanwhile, side by side with this, goes on the crusade for the disestablishment of the churches in England, Scotland and Wales. The commission sent by the Church of Scotland to investigate the more recent developments of the Calcutta scandal have reached their destination, and ere long we may hope for their report. With it, we have no doubt, the matter must end. It has been a sore and distressing business. A Free Kirk elder, who has just passed away has bequeathed \$10,000 to build, and \$50,000 to endow—what? A Wesleyan church in Blairgowrie, together with his residence, Rosebank House, as the Mission House! It is said that there are as yet no Methodists in Blairgowrie. That is rather a strange freak. Blairgowrie is next parish to Mr. Herdman's, formerly of Pictou. The Rev. Mr. McGillivray is busy in his advocacy of the claims of the French Evangelization effort. There is some interest taken in that enterprise by Christian people here, and the story of the recent attacks upon Pastor Chiniquy, which are carefully related in the *Christian Leader*, has not allowed the interest to decrease. Several times now he has neared the Crown of Martyrdom. May he be spared for further service in his Master's cause. D.

IRELAND.—It is found to be very up-hill work to keep the Sustentation Fund going. It will be remembered that when Disestablishment took effect most of the ministers commuted their life interests for a lump sum which is now used as an endowment. Some six hundred thousand pounds sterling were got in this way. To supplement this the Sustentation Fund is worked. The aim at first was to get an income from both sources, the Endowment and the Sustentation Fund, amounting to at least one hundred pounds for each minister, and this was to be in addition to the ordinary stipend, which varies from £30 to £600 per annum. The Regium Donum did not amount to £70. If the aim had been realized, ministers would have been £30 better off than before. As it was, for some years there was an addition of £22 to each minister, that is to say instead of the £70 of Regium Donum, there was £92 paid to each. It was hoped that things would gradually improve until the ideal of £100 would be reached. This hope has failed so far. Nay, instead of improving there has been a decline. For a year or two past, instead of £22 of a surplus, it has only been £16, and the fear now is that this year a further decrease will be made. There has been a good deal of friction in various ways. One fruitful source