

the Bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister. The Free Church Assembly petitioned against it and some of the Presbyteries have since done the same. All the American Churches have now appointed their delegates to the Belfast meeting of the Presbyterian Alliance which is appointed to meet on the 24th of June 1884. The convener of the committee of arrangements is Rev. Dr. Knox of Belfast, who, we are sorry to learn, is at present in a very precarious state of health.

MARTIN LUTHER was born at Eisleben, in Saxony on the 10th of November 1483, and was named in memory of his birthday which was the eve of St. Martin. Four hundred years will have passed next November since the birth of the great Reformer, and all Protestant nations are already preparing to celebrate in a fitting manner the quarcentary. Booksellers may expect a "boom" in the sale of D'Aubigné's History of the Reformation, and the occasion will not be mis-improved if a large and cheap edition of this remarkable book be again put into circulation. There would be fewer "weak-kneed Protestants" if people generally were more familiar with the history of Protestantism.

The Presbyterian Church of New South Wales has within the last eighteen months obtained nineteen ministers from Britain. Still they want more. It has issued a circular in which it is stated,—“Such is the growth of our colony and such the demand for ministerial labourers, that our wants seem greater than ever. No less than thirteen places have been specified within the bounds of the Presbytery of Sydney which might form the centres of new charges. Fifty men would be none too many to fully meet our wants.” They offer £100 for outfit, guarantee all travelling expenses to places of appointment, and \$20 per week for a period of at least two years or until a settlement has been obtained within that time.

METHODIST UNION.—The Union of the four Methodist Churches in Canada, namely, the Methodist Church of Canada, the Primitive Methodist Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Bible Christian Church appears to be on the eve of consummation. The first of these is the largest and is chiefly of Wesleyan origin being composed by the Union in 1874, of the W. M. Church and the Methodist New Connexion Church in Canada. The Basis of Union was submitted last winter to the laity in the Official Quarterly Boards of the Methodist Church of Canada and was approved by an overwhelming majority. It was next submitted to the ministry in their recent Annual Conferences and was accepted in five out of the six conferences, viz. Toronto, Montreal, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and rejected in

the largest, viz. the London Conference. It has been accepted in the three smaller churches. It now remains for the Basis to be finally submitted for ratification to the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada which was summoned to meet in Belleville on the 30th ult. It seems probable that the required ratification by a three-fourths majority will be given, although we are told that a majority of the clerical delegates have already pronounced against it, while a majority of the lay delegates have pronounced for it. If union is then ratified it takes effect immediately and the first united General Conference will proceed to business on Sept. 5th, and will represent the largest Protestant Church in the Dominion, with 1700 ministers, and three Universities besides Colleges in St. John's, Newfoundland and Stanstead, Quebec, the Wesleyan Theological in Montreal, the three Ladies' Colleges in Ontario, and a Methodist population—of 742,981.

Our esteemed Edinburgh correspondent writes as follows :

July 25th, 1883.

How the summer is flying ! and as yet we seem scarcely to have tasted it. The spring was somewhat late and cold. The months of May and June were so rainless that all green herbs were fairly parched and blighted. Then came the rain with the beginning of July, since which time, no one complains of dry weather ; one facetious brother declaring rather solemnly that in his part of the country, they must reverse the Darwinian theory and cultivate *fins* ; to swim with. Too much rain : but we are never satisfied. To-day we had such a hail storm, that some fears are entertained, lest the wheat and grain crops with the potato “tops” should be prostrated much to their detriment. But let us cheer up. The weather may mend in time yet by the good blessing of God upon the land. These last few days have been prolific in topics of passing, and in one or two instances of events of more enduring interest. First came the irrepressible Egyptian, with the startling and distressing reports of a terrible invasion of cholera, cutting off more than did the British Army. The barriers to such an invasion, seem very slight indeed ; and their overthrow as easy as was the rout of Arabi's host. Then came the Suez Canal question, with M. De Lesseps on its back and a grand display he and his project did make. For the present, however, the first proposal has been checkmated and negotiations suspended. How the affair will end, you will likely know, before this reaches you, but the chief commercial interests in the country and many of the Government organs are much dissatisfied with the terms, and the gigantic monopoly of the right of way across the isthmus