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## Ecclesiastical News.

THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND commenced its annual session in Liverpool on the 28th of April. Dr. Edmond, the retiring Moderator, preached the opening sermon, after which he announced that the Board of Nomination had chosen as his successor the Rev. R. H. Lundie, M.A., of Fairfield Church, Liverpool, subject to the approval of the Synod. In his opening address the new Moderator stated, what seems to be very generally admitted and deplored, that "the lapsed masses are the problem of the day." It is a sad confession to make that "in no country of Europe can any parallel be found to the deep debasement, the hopeless helplessness, the sudden misery of multitudes in the great cities of Britain." How are these lapsed masses to be reached and elevated? Mr. Lundie has no hesitation in saying that Gospel Temperance must have a leading place in any reformatory movement. The efforts of Moody and Sankey, and of the Salvation Army and other evangelistic agencies were referred to appreciatively; but after making all due allowances for them, it goes without saying that the chief burden of responsibility must ever rest on the churches. The report on the Sustentation Scheme was satisfactory. For the eighth time they had paid a dividend of \$1,000 to each of the ministers. The number of congregations is 279; of ministers 373, and of Church members 58,400. The receipts for Home Missions were \$14,000, for other missionary purposes \$51,000, and for all purposes \$1,055,850. The report of the Committee on the Confession of Faith, presented by Dr. Dykes, recommended:—(1) that officers be required to assent to the "system of doctrine" contained in the Confession; (2) the preparation of a declaratory statement explaining the sense in which the Church understands the document; and (3) the reappointment of the committee to move in the direction of framing "a briefer and more available compendium of fundamental doctrine." Dr. Dykes, while acknowledging that it was a very serious thing for a Church to raise the question of the basis of its Confession, explained that what they had

endeavoured to do was to define with greater precision than had hitherto been done their comprehension of the infinite truth of God. It was felt that the Westminster Confession of Faith had never been a text-book for teaching, its only use being an ultimate standard of appeal in cases of heresy. The report was sent down to Presbyteries to report their judgment thereupon, and the committee was instructed to consider the best method of proceeding with the preparation of a briefer compendium of doctrine.

THE SYNOD OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND met in Edinburgh on the 5th of May. The Rev. Dr. Hutton, of Paisley, Moderator. Before proceeding with the ordinary business, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated, a large number of members being present. The report on Statistics, given in by Dr. Scott, was encouraging. It was specially gratifying to know that there was a continual increase in the number of young persons receiving instruction in the Sabbath-School and of teachers. Dr. Hutton presented the report on Disestablishment. He said that this question had made progress. "It had stood the stress of the severest political weather, and it was, he believed, in sight of port." He moved that the Synod express its satisfaction that three notices of motion now before the House of Commons declare the necessity for disestablishment and disendowment in Scotland, England and Wales, and that the Synod renew its petition in favour of Mr. Peddie's motion. Principal Cairns, in seconding the motion, said that while there was cause for thankfulness that Established Churchmen were approaching them on this subject as they had never done before, he did not see the least possibility of their meeting the new Established Church movement half way. The financial affairs of the Church were reported to be in a satisfactory condition.

UNITED STATES.—The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, North, met at Saratoga on the 18th of May. Owing to the death of Dr. Hatfield, the Moderator of last Assembly, it fell to Dr. Jessup, of Beirut, to deliver the opening sermon, who discussed for an hour and a half on the theme nearest his heart—the subject of Foreign Missions. Rev. Dr. George B. Hays, of Denver, was elected Moderator, and Rev. Dr.