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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Among the greetings to the General Assembly from other Churches none is more welcome than that from the Free Church of Italy, one of the most active and robust of the Protestant churches on the European Continent. Placed in the very citadel of the Papacy, this Church has had her day of trial and of trouble, but constant faith has been her helping cable through the surf of persecution and poverty, until now quieter days have brought the long looked for prosperity and success as an evangelizing agency. Long may her bow abide in strength.

It is stated that graduates of Union Seminary, New York, are finding increasing difficulty in securing settlements. Before the Briggs agitation seventy-five per cent. of them usually had calls before graduation day. This year out of twenty-seven Presbyterians in the graduating class only four are placed. At Princeton over 50 per cent. of the class are virtually settled and at Auburn every man is already taken up. The prejudice against Union men is becoming so great that not a few of her students now prefer taking their final year elsewhere to avoid it. The McGiffert agitation is not likely to improve the situation.

After much conference together the three great Presbyterian Churches in Scotland have united on a Common Hymnal or Book of Praise. It will be remembered that the Colonial Churches hoped to have been included but the delay

and difference, in Scotland prevented that happy consummation. The Scotch Churches, however, and the Irish Presbyterians have been now able to agree on one book and henceforward will use it in their services. It is to be named "The Church Hymnary" a name which has not given general satisfaction, but which will be accepted as the best available, so many other names having been copyrighted.

One of the most curious charges brought to an Assembly against a minister was that against Rev. James Webster of the Free Church of Scotland. His doctrine seems to have been all right, and his life and character has been spotless, but the complaint set forth that he "has no common sense"! The Assembly experienced the difficulty of dealing with such a grave and unusual charge and could not trust itself to dispose of it. So a commission was appointed to visit the congregation and the minister, and by a process not explained impart "common sense" to both parties.

The death roll of ministers during the past year include the names of brethren who rendered long, faithful and conspicuous service to the Master. Among them are those of the Revs. Dr. Jenkins, John Ewing, Wm. McKibbin, John Nichols and S. Boyd.

On Friday evening the Assembly was shocked by the accidental death of one of the Commissioners, the Rev. R. J. Grant, of River John, Pictou, N. S., who was killed by a trolley car, near Chaboillez Square. The sad event was reported at the evening Session and the news seemed to paralyze the meeting. Mr. Grant was a bright young minister of great promise and had been settled at River John for about two years. He was a graduate of Dalhousie College and a native of Pictou. He and Rev. G. C. Robertson had gone for a bicycle ride after tea and when near Chaboillez Square a child darted across the street in front of them. In an attempt to avoid running over the child Mr. Grant fell from his wheel in front of the trolley which passed over his body causing instant death. The accident has drawn forth the sympathy of the community and on Saturday and Sabbath day many feeling references were made to the melancholy ending of a bright though brief career.

The reports of the Colleges drew out an interesting discussion on the quality of the instruction and the equipment of students for the field. We believe Dr. Milligan's view is held by many in the Church that students require the very highest attainable training. The Colleges are at present doing wonders, and the Church is placed under deep obligation to them, but the way to realize the higher standard is to increase the College funds, to endow more chairs, to found scholarships and to provide apparatus and accommodation in keeping with the rapid pace of the age. Professors are but