

COLLEGIATE EDUCATION.

In connection with the Report of the College Committee, there was a somewhat lengthened discussion, with reference to some recent changes in the curriculum of the Queen's Colleges, which, it was contended, would be prejudicial to the training of the students preparing for the ministry. It was agreed that all students should, in addition to their degree, produce a certificate of attendance for two terms on the class of Metaphysics. The College Report stated that the whole number of students in preparation for the ministry was 101, being an increase of 28.

THE APPOINTMENT OF ARMY CHAPLAINS.

This subject has occasioned much discussion for the last year or two, there being a misunderstanding with the Government as to the mode of appointment. A deputation had been appointed to confer with Government, and now gave in their Report. From the Report it appeared that there was the prospect of the matter being satisfactorily arranged.

RELIGIOUS PROSPECTS OF ITALY.

The Rev. Mr. McDougall, Minister of the Free Church at Florence, gave an interesting address on the prospects of Central Italy, with reference to religion. He referred to the great and encouraging changes which have just taken place, and to the labours of Givazzi, who, he said, was not the Gavazzi of former years, but who now was not only a powerful assailer of the papacy, but a clear expounder of the doctrine of justification by faith, and of the kindred doctrines.

OTHER MATTERS.

Various other important matters, such as the subject of Intermediate Education, Sabbath Observance, &c., occupied the attention of the Assembly. The next meeting of the Assembly was appointed to take place in Belfast, on the 1st Monday of July, 1861.

STATE OF RELIGION IN LONDON.

In London the work of revival goes on, and numerous cases of conversion are noted. It is to a great extent in connexion with Bible-classes and other meetings in connexion with Young Men's Christian Associations, that these cases of conversion occur. Young women's classes are also formed, and on a recent occasion, Lord Shaftesbury presided at a Thursday evening meeting, when all the rooms were crowded. The results are said to be quiet but yet highly satisfactory. One result of the movement is that new agents are brought forward who seem to be particularly fitted for their work. One of them is referred to in the following terms by the London correspondent of the *Presbyterian Banner*, a highly respected minister of the Presbyterian Church:—

A NEW PREACHER, by name, Richard Weaver, formerly a prize-fighter and a collier in the North, has appeared in London, and is producing very deep and wide-spread impressions by open air addresses, on large

masses of the population. He was announced first of all by a handbill on the afternoons, to "preach and sing," in the Cumberland Market. And "sing," as well as "preach," he can do to the melting down of hundreds.

One night addressing a number of poor men and women on the words, "They shall return to Zion with songs," he said: "I was always fond of singing; I believe I was born singing. But the songs I used to sing are not the songs I love now. Oh my dear men you sing 'Britons never, never shall be slaves; but what slaves you are to your own lusts, to the devil, to the landlord!"

"I used to sing, 'We went go home till morning;' the landlord loves to hear that. I've sung that five nights together, and spent £14 on one spree, and got turned out at the end. But I've learned better songs; I'll tell you some of the songs I love now, Here's one:

"Oh happy day that fixed my choice,
On thee, my Saviour and my God.

"And hear's another:

"There is a fountain, fited with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins."

The *Revival*, which furnishes these particulars, goes on with its narrative thus:

The speaker quoted with wonderful rapidity, but without the semblance of irreverence, at least a dozen hymns, or portions of hymns, some of which he sang, the meeting taking up the chorus. Then he related the following anecdote, with a pathos and tenderness of voice and manner which told how affectionate a heart and how delicate a mind may be developed by the grace of God in a man employed in the hardest work and once addicted to the grossest vice:

"I knew a collier in Staffordshire who had one dear little girl, the last of four or five. This child was the light of his eyes; and as he came from the pit at night she used to meet him at the door of his cot to welcome him home. One day when he came in to dinner, he missed his little darling, and going into the house with his heavy coalpit clogs, his wife called him up stairs. The stillness of the place and her quiet voice made his heart sick, and a foreboding of evil came upon him. His wife told him they were going to lose their little lamb—she had had an apoplectic fit, and the doctor said she could not live. As the tears made furrows down his black face, and as he leaned over his dying darling, she said, 'Daddy, sing

'Here is no rest—is no rest!'

'No, my child, I can't sing, I'm choking; I can't sing.' 'Oh do, daddy, sing Here's no rest.' The poor fellow tried to sing (*preacher sings*.)

'Here on the earth as a stranger I roam,
Here is no rest—is no rest!'

But his voice couldn't make way against his trouble. Then he tried again, for he wanted to please his sweet little girl (*preacher sings*.)

'Here are afflictions and trials severe,

Here is no rest—is no rest!

Here I must part with the friends I hold dear,
Yet I am blest—I am blest!

Again his voice was choked with weeping; but the little one whispered, 'Come, daddy,

sing, "Sweet is the promise." And the poor father goes on again—

Sweet is the promise I read in thy Word,
Blessed are they who have died in the Lord;
They have been called to receive their reward,

There is rest—there is rest!

"That's it, daddy," cried the child, that's it; and with her arms round the collier's neck she died happy in the Lord."

We cannot describe the thrilling effect of Mr. Weaver's singing in the midst of preaching—it is so free from everything like premeditation or aiming at effect—it is like living water flowing from a man filled with the Holy Ghost.

Communications, &c.

McNAB STREET CHURCH, HAMILTON—
RESOLUTIONS ON UNION.

Extracts from minutes of meeting of the congregation of McNab Street Church, Hamilton, held on the 15th Aug., 1860. The Rev. David Inglis, Chairman, A. F. Skinner, Secretary.

Moved by Mr. Jas. Osborne, Seconded by Mr. George McKay, and Resolved, "That sensible of the great practical importance of Union among the various branches of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and believing this to be in accordance with the mind of the Great Head of the Church, we as a congregation hereby express our gratitude to God, that in His Good Providence these Churches are brought more earnestly to contemplate this Union, and our earnest hopes that it may be speedily consummated in such a way as to redound to the Glory of God, in the advancement of His Cause and Kingdom in this land."

Moved by Mr. D. McLe Ian, Seconded by Mr. James Miller, and Resolved, "That as a congregation, we especially view with satisfaction and gratitude, the progress made toward union between the United Presbyterian Church and our own; and express our belief that the Union may be safely and honorably consummated, on the basis agreed upon in the joint Committee, which has this evening been submitted to us, and that we cordially approve of the declaratory statement accompanying said basis."

Moved by Mr. M. Young, Jr., Seconded by Mr. A. Alexander, and Resolved, "That as a Congregation, we desire to record our earnest hope that the action of the joint Committee, will be ratified by the respective Synods, at the special meeting to be convened in the month of October next, and that the way may be then cleared for consummating the Union in the month of June following."

Moved by M. A. McKenzie, Seconded by Mr. John Brown, and Resolved, "That the Secretary be requested to send a copy of these resolutions to the Editor of the *Record*, with a request that the same be published in the September number."

A SUGGESTION WITH REFERENCE
TO THE UNION.

To the Editor of the *Missionary Record*.

Toronto, Aug. 18, 1860.

Dear Sir,—In view of the Union of the Churches next year, it has occurred to me that the present would be a most fitting time to commence the raising of a "Union Commemoration Fund," as a testimony, by the members and adherents of the Church, of their hearty approval of the Union, and as an earnest that it is not to be a dead letter, but a union of zeal and energy.