

Its style is chaste and classic, and every page of it indicates careful labour.

Passing from Europe to the continent of America, we find here a literature of Presbyterian practice not inferior to any of the productions of the old world. At an early time in the history of the Church on this continent, the necessity for publishing a formal Constitution was strongly felt. Minister's, elders and people needed some hand-book to guide them, scattered as they were, throughout the yet uncleared country, and far from brethren with whom to consult. We consequently find that, in 1788, the Synod of New York and Philadelphia published a "Form of Government," with an introductory chapter of "Preliminary Principles." This book ripened in successive years to that which was ratified by the General Assembly of 1821, (before the division into old and new schools,) under the title of "The Form of Government and the Form of Process of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America." This, to our thinking, is the best manual of Church constitution and practice that has yet been constructed. It has been elaborated by men of distinguished ability and ecclesiastical experience. Its style is that of the Confession of Faith. While it is comprehensive in its character, it yet avoids that minuet minuteness which is so objectionable a feature in some directories. It is the constitution and charter of both the great sections of the Church in the United States. We know of no book of the kind that we would more readily put into the hands of enquiring laymen and students than this. The circumstances of the Church from which, and at the time which, it originated were much akin to our own, and the greater part of its forms might with advantage be adopted by us. Along with this we would notice the publication of the early Records of the Synods and Assemblies of the Church in the United States by the Board of Publications, and the still more valuable book compiled by the Rev. S. J. Baird, entitled: "A collection of the Acts, Deliverances, and Testimonials of the Supreme Judicatory of the Presbyterian Church from its origin in America to the present time: (1856,) with Notes and Documents explanatory and historical, constituting a complete illustration of her Polity, Faith and History." A more complete, useful, and interesting body of Church law is no where to be found than this. The arrangement is most excellent and the table of contents is full and minute.

We would only further instance another admirable production of a similar kind, entitled: "The Constitution of the Reformed Dutch Church." It belongs to a different *species* of the Presbyterian *genus* than that of our own. There is a thorough Church character and a smack of genuine reformed antiquity about it. The conservative element, perhaps, bulks larger than is agreeable to all republican palates. It constitutes a strong Church executive, while at the same time it amply secures the liberties of the Christian people. Many lessons of legal wisdom may be derived from its pages.

Having considered the Presbyterian (reformed) literature on this question, we would, ere sketching out what we should regard as a rough draft of a Manual for ourselves, only further direct the attention of our literary friends to another work of sterling merit issued last year from the American press. It is called a "Lutheran Manual of Scriptural Principles, or the Augsburg Confession, illustrated and sustained chiefly by Scripture proofs and extracts from standard Lutheran Theologians of Europe and America; together with the Formula of Government and Discipline adopted by the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States, by S. S. Schmucker, D.D." This is a very scholarly and interesting production. It contains an admirable dedication "To the ministers and Churches of the General Synod," also an introduction, in true German style, of a Historico-Theological kind, admirably conceived and executed, in section third of which there is an able account of the origin of human Creeds and of the principal Creeds of Christendom. Then follows the