

JUNE is the month of Ecclesiastical parliaments. Methodism is now rejoicing in its unity, and concentrating its forces for still more effective work. God give that body that its most earnest promoters of this union desire, a spiritual oneness that may make Canada rejoice in the quickening power Christ-ward of its presence and energy. We congratulate our friend of the *Guardian*, Dr. Dewart, on his election to the Presidential chair of the Toronto Conference; and upon the acknowledgment thus made to the manly utterance of his own conviction united with impartial bearing towards those who differ from him. Nor can we allow his predecessor in the presidency, Dr. Geo. Cochran, to depart for his old field of Japan, without a cordial God bless you.

PRESBYTERIANISM has had too its Assembly, of which one or two notes may be given. Its determined effort to raise a minimum stipend of \$700 for its ministers seems to have been virtually crowned with success. In thus drawing forth from the people a liberal support for its pastors, it raises the general pulpit tone, and secures in return stability and power in large measure. A mean church moulds a mean ministry, which eventually proves ruinous to both. There is evidently a growing conviction that the colleges should be consolidated, and time may yet bring about what, to those best acquainted with all the difficulties, seems almost past praying for. Certainly a college combining the power of Knox, Queen's, and Montreal, would be a just cause of pride to the large church they serve. The renewed discussion of the question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister shows the decided trend of the body towards a freer polity and discipline. The report of their committee, though in one sense non-committal, is decided in endeavouring to suspend ecclesiastical discipline in the matter, and there seems little doubt of the Presbyterian church in Canada eventually allowing its prohibition to be in abeyance, as the sister church of the United States has already done. Meantime Presbyterians are asked to consider the question.

THE reported membership of the Presbyterian church is 114,602. An increase of 380 over last year. It is reported, however, that

the net increase is shown only in the Synods of Toronto and Kingston. There have been 11,395 additions to, and 7,838 removals from the roll. The total income for all purposes has been \$1,453,534, of which \$41,194 is for Foreign Mission work, \$18,186 for French Evangelization and \$46,568 for the Colleges. The number of pastoral charges is 753 against 746 last year, and ministers retired, in service, the colleges, and foreign fields are given as 683. We have a warm hand to hold out to our brethren and pray that they too may have in continuance grace, mercy, and peace from the God they serve and the Christ they love.

THE Anglican Synod has also been in session in the City of Toronto, and at the suggestion of the Bishop a deputation went to the Presbyterian Assembly to convey fraternal greetings. The same deputation were instructed to convey similar greetings to the Methodist Conference. This simple act of grace we shall in no wise seek to belittle, but trust that the time has for ever past when old world distinctions shall curse this free land with social or political bitterness. Perhaps after all the dream of our worthy chairman concerning union among the various religious bodies may be—we pray it is, a shadow of the coming day, when none shall worry or destroy in God's heritage, and Christians being one, the world will know that Jesus is the Christ of God. Truly our heart rejoices in the manifest breaking down of partition walls. Separate from the world let Christians be in so far as its sinful practices are concerned, but let brother clasp hand with brother the wide world over as they gather round Gethsemane and Calvary.

WHILE we are on this subject of union a few words as to ourselves. What are we to do? Hasten to be quietly absorbed? Is the wolf to lie down with the lamb, the lamb inside? This is our word. The unsectarian denominationalism and Christian liberty for which we exist are no idle dreams, but eternal verities, so also is the contention that the church is a body of believers. Let us maintain firmly, lovingly, these truths, have faith therein, and make them sound forth the word of life, the Spirit of Christ; we shall patiently work on those lines leaving the future with God. We ought to be the freest to follow God's provi-