

Unitarian hands in 1847 of the great Lady Hewley Trust, on behalf of godly preachers and others in the six Northern Counties—an event which had also an important bearing upon the

#### UNION WITH THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

Church in England in 1876, which gave a fresh impetus to English Presbyterianism, the benefits of which are being experienced still. And here it may, perhaps, not be out of place to say parenthetically, for the benefit of your younger readers, that the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, of which this was an English branch, received its name from the Union effected in May, 1847, between the United Secession Synod (1733) and the Synod of the Relief (from patronage) Church (1752), both bodies being composed of men who had left the Church of Scotland on religious grounds. It may be interesting also to notice here that amongst the two thousand ministers driven by the Act of Uniformity of 1662 out of the Established Church of England (declared to be Presbyterian in 1647) was Henry Erskine, father of Ebenezer and Ralph Erskine, who seventy-one years after founded the Scottish Secession Church. And, further, that the first Secession congregation organized in London in 1744 had for its pastor Richard Baxter—the greatest of English Puritan fathers.

It is right to add here that the historical quality of the new English Presbyterian Church was enriched by the adhesion of the one congregation in England of the

#### OLD REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

Church of Scotland, which dates from 1690, when a respectful memorial from certain members on behalf of the unity, purity and peace of the Church of Scotland was refused permission to be read to the General Assembly.

Dr. Graham, of Liverpool, was the representative of this small historic band, who, "though ridiculed by the novelist and scorned by the Cavalier, were the pioneers of British liberty, having braved the tyranny of the House of Stuart when so many were abjectly doing obeisance. Their banners, floating over the mountains of Scotland, indicated to William of Orange that the nation was ripening for a change."

When the Union was effected in 1876 the

#### UNITED CONGREGATIONS

numbered 260, with a membership of 53,000. At the present time the English Presbyterian Church consists of ten Presbyteries composed of 283 congregations, with a membership of 59,690. The available sittings in the several churches amount to 145,320, and the office-bearers, elders, deacons and managers number 4,200.

The workers in benevolent societies and mission Sabbath schools last year were 13,262; the Sabbath schools—112 in number—being attended by 17,305 children.

The last session of the theological school, with four professors, was attended by twenty students, being a decrease of seven from that of the prior session.

#### THE CHINA MISSION,

commenced in 1847, has now seventeen missionaries, seven of whom are medical men. There are also two missionary teachers, with thirty native evangelists employed at Amoy, twelve at Swatow and thirty one in Formosa. There are also thirty four students. This is the mission on which the strength of this Church is chiefly expended, and in which its members take the greatest interest. The other day a member of the English Presbyterian Church, who does not give his name, sent a cheque for £3,000 to be added to its funds. Five missionaries in China are wholly supported by a

#### WOMAN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION,

whose primary object is to further mission work among the women of those fields immediately occupied by the Presbyterian Church of England as the sphere of its foreign missions. Its agents are female missionaries and such native women as may be trained or approved by them. They have a quarterly journal, *Our Sisters in Other Lands*, and are doing an admirable work.

#### IN INDIA

there is one station in Bengal, with a medical missionary—Dr. Morison—who has been at work for the last eight years. He is assisted by native helpers and teachers, and three zenana missionaries.

#### JEWISH MISSIONS.

The Jewish Mission partakes of the character both

of a home and foreign mission. At present the Jewish Mission in London is prosecuted with growing evidence of interest amongst the Jewish people, and some encouraging fruits in conversions to the faith of Jesus. The agent is the Rev. Theodore J. Meyer, who is assisted by Mr. Polan. At the meeting of last Synod it was decided to enlarge this mission by entering on a foreign field. The field selected is Morocco, in Northern Africa, where there is a large Jewish population, and which is not occupied by other labourers. The Church is encouraged to start this mission by the promise of £250 a year for ten years from the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, to aid in making the £600 or £700 a year which will be needed. I was present at an enthusiastic meeting of friends of Presbyterian missions held in Exeter Hall in June last, when this subject was introduced by the Rev. Dr. Edmond, followed by Rev. Dr. MacEwan, of Clapham, both of whom made telling speeches on behalf of Missions to the Jews, who now occupy in Europe the foremost place in politics, in philosophy and in finance. A blessing, Dr. MacEwan said, would rest upon all who supported such a mission, and a blight would befall every Church that despised or neglected it.

#### HOME MISSIONS

were advocated at this meeting by Mr. Samuel Smith, M.P., of Liverpool, and Dr. Dykes, of Regent Square Church, the latter making a most effective address. He said that out of the fifty Presbyterian congregations in the Metropolitan area, some thirty three were formed of immigrants from the North and North West, of the middle and lower middle classes—Scotch and Irish—and such of their neighbours as joined them. Of these, twenty-five are engaged in mission work in their own immediate neighbourhood, but he did not think they were reaching to any appreciable extent the workingmen. They had ten churches in London down amongst the masses of workingmen, and he thought they should try to make the Church, rather than the mission hall, the centre for reaching these men, by picking well their agents, and entrusting the work to men of approved qualities for this particular vocation.

At this meeting I had the pleasure of meeting several old Canadian friends, among them Dr. Monro Gibson and Mr. Thornton, both of whom are taking a high position as pastors in London. Dr. Donald Fraser was absent, from indisposition.

#### THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

Notwithstanding the great commercial depression existing in Britain for some time, the committee had been able last year to pay the full dividend of £200 from the Sustentation Fund. In connection with this fund are 110 congregations aid-giving, eighty-two of these participating in the fund and twenty-eight non-participating. Of the other congregations connected with the fund, thirty-four are barely self-sustaining, and ninety-eight are aid-receiving. Of these ninety-eight, seventy-seven are on the equal dividend, and twenty-one are below the equal dividend. The average ministerial stipend rose last year £6, being £310 in 1884 against £304 in 1883.

It will thus be seen that, although still a small body in England, the Presbyterian Church exhibits all the signs of a living one, and promises to grow and extend in the future. The missionary work in which it is engaged and its aggressive temperance work are evidences of the spiritual life of its members, and all the ministers are distinguished by their loyalty to the doctrines of Paul and Augustine. Before concluding this rapid sketch of Presbyterianism in England, perhaps I should say that there are still a few ministers and congregations—seventeen in number—who maintain a connection with the

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

A friendly feeling, however, exists between these and the English Presbyterian Church, there being a common ground on which the two Churches can co-operate. Judging by a recent letter from a parish minister in Scotland, in response to a request for aid to repair a church in England, it would seem as if the time is not far distant when a union will be effected. "Expect nothing from Scotland," he writes. "The Church of Scotland is not foolish. Your proper course is to join your brethren in England, and no longer stand aloof as a miserable, starving nucleus of crotchety and sentimental Scotch people who, for the sake of the name: 'Church of Scotland,' fight a silly and losing battle. Lose not a day in casting in your lot

with the Presbyterian Church that is a worthy sister or daughter of the Church of Scotland." This is sufficiently plain speaking, you must admit. T. H.

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#### NEWFOUNDLAND—THE ANCIENT COLONY—LOCATION AND INDUSTRIES.

From infancy we have heard of Newfoundland; but the leading idea connected with this colony is that it is somewhere near the North Pole, and that any one fortunate enough to visit the island should be able to describe with considerable accuracy the North Pole on his return.

Newfoundland is situated on the entrance to the Gulf of St. Lawrence River, and is distant from Toronto about 1,800 miles, and about 1,300 miles from the West Coast of Ireland. The island is about 300 miles long, and continues north to the Coast of Labrador. It was discovered in the fifteenth century by a Venetian named John Cabot, who died at the age of eighty. It is said that no one knows of his burial-place to this day, and that of all his discoveries there is not an island bearing his name. In 1729, Newfoundland was recognized as a British colony, the population then being 6,000, and in the same year the first law court was established. Previous to this period cases were taken to England for decision. Like most other places, Newfoundland has had hard struggles for existence, and although possessed of immense resources, it remained in a backward state for many years. People either would not or could not settle down, when they caught the fish they returned to England to sell them.

The chief industries of the island are fishing and mining and, to further these, farming was in whole or in part neglected. There are about 30,000 fishermen in the colony, and the exports of fish alone run up to millions of dollars. The best cod is raised on the Banks, which are about 100 miles from the shore. There is also a very large business done in herring and seal on the Labrador Coast.

Mining was begun in 1804, and in ten years about 52,000 tons were exported; in 1875 a copper mine was discovered, and a third was opened in 1879, the total value of which was over five millions of dollars.

#### SAINT JOHN'S

is the capital, and has a population of about 30,000. The city was destroyed by fire in 1816, when 130 houses were laid in ashes. A second fire took place which left 2,000 people homeless. Help was sent from England, Boston and Halifax. A very large mercantile business is carried on here, though there are few manufactures; everything to eat and wear is imported. The people are very industrious. Many of the natives have never been off the island. A well-to-do merchant told me that he had never been outside the Narrows, or in Halifax. I thought to myself that if every one had gone to Halifax who has been sent there from time to time, that old city would have a much larger population than it can boast of at present. Several important public works have been carried out in St. John's. The waterworks, costing \$40,000, have been in operation for a number of years, and by this means the poorer classes have pure water free, running from tanks at their doors. Last year a dry-dock was finished which will admit the largest steamer afloat, with the exception of the *Great Eastern*. The citizens are untaxed and rents are reasonably low. In the matter of hotel accommodation, St. John's has always been far behind the demands of the age, but last spring witnessed the opening of the "Atlantic," which is first-class in all its appointments. The house is run by Mr. Foran, and is giving unbounded satisfaction to the travelling public.

#### BANKING.

There are only two Banks in the colony, and these are in St. John's. The Union and Commercial both have been successful institutions. The Union was established in 1854 and has had a very successful career. Between dividends and bonuses stockholders get about twenty per cent., whilst the original shareholders get about twenty-seven per cent. Mr. Goldie, formerly of Canada, is the cashier, and is looked upon as a high authority on the principles of Banking.

#### GOVERNMENT.

The Government of the colony has its seat in St. John's, and is composed of a Governor, appointed by the English Government, an Executive Council of seven members, a Legislative Council of fifteen mem-