

from the Presbytery of London; and having had its attention called to the alarming progress in the Established Church of such teachings and practices as involve some of the most fatal heresies of the Church of Rome, and to the fact that efforts recently made to restrain such doctrines and practices by suits at law have proved of no avail, resolve to appoint a Special Committee, with instructions to prepare and issue an address to congregations on the serious dangers which now threaten the cause of Divine truth and the highest interests of this realm; and also to communicate with Evangelical Christians and Churches faithful to the principles of the Reformation, with a view to concerted action for the preservation of our common Protestant faith, and in the direction of delivering the nation from complicity with the maintenance and propagation of disastrous error."

We have given an account thus extended of the English Presbyterian Synod because the body occupies a most important position, is rapidly growing, and commands wide influence. Its liberality, and its evangelistic spirit are worthy of admiration and imitation.

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States met at Baltimore on the 15th ult. The Sessions of this large and influential body usually extend to thirteen or fifteen days. 4700 churches are here represented, and Mission Stations in almost every heathen country.—The Southern General Assembly met at Little Rock, Arkansas, on the same day. Drs. Earle and Calderwood of the U. P. Church, Scotland, were delegates to both these Assemblies. The Canada Assembly will meet on the 3rd June at Toronto.—We regret we are unable to lay before our readers any part of the proceedings of the Scottish Assemblies. It is to be hoped that there is to be no anti-union disruption; but a portion of the minority have indulged in threats of appeal to the civil courts. In our next we hope to give a brief outline of the proceedings of various Assemblies and Synods.

REV. WM. ALVES, well known in St. John, N. B., died recently in New Zealand.

HORRORS OF THE NEW SLAVE TRADE.

New Hebrides Missionaries have had to contend with the atrocious traffic in human life carried on by reckless traders. The gospel has been hindered; several islands have been almost depopulated; many lives, Native and European have been sacrificed. Never were the horrors of the traffic against which our Missionaries earnestly protested so vividly brought before the public as in the case of the *Carl*, a vessel owned by a Dr. James Patrick Murray. Her Captain was named Armstrong, and he had a crew of seven or eight ruffians like himself. The Doctor accompanied the expedition. The principal evidence in the case was given before an Australian Court of Justice, by a native christian named Jage, and by Dr. Murray who turned "Queen's Evidence."

It appeared that the *Carl* left Melbourne for Levuka, in Fiji, on the 8th of June, 1871. Having changed her captain and her crew at Levuka she started on her first kidnapping expedition in Western Polynesia, and the parts adjacent, without delay. She first visited Tanna, in the New Hebrides. Then she went to Vate, and to Apii, where Murray, the ringleader, bought some land. Next, Murray and the people on the *Carl* went on to Palmer Island, and tried to obtain "labour" by legitimate means, but failed, as they had before. At Palmer Island Mr. Mount, one of the "passengers," dressed up as a missionary, to lure the natives on board, but the shameless trick failed. At the next island visited there was a fight with the natives, and some of the poor struggling wretches having been fished up out of the water were carried off into slavery. The manstealers then went on to several islands with the same object in view. To use Dr. Murray's own words:—

"We went on to several of the islands, and captured the natives generally by breaking or upsetting their canoes, and by getting the natives out of the water into which they were plunged; we broke up the canoes by throwing pig iron into them, and then seizing the natives in the water; the captain and crew used to be chiefly engaged in throwing the weights into the canoes, and the passengers, in their own boat, used to pick up the natives out of the water; and used sometimes to hit the natives in the water on the head with clubs, or with sling shot, when they dived to get out of the way; the natives were at times very hard to get hold of; the crew used to do pretty much the same in the other boat; the cap-