

riage and burial; and the churches, in towns at least, open for daily service. He thought preaching had improved in becoming more reasonable in length, more practical in its bearing, more catholic in its tone. But the pulpit could only hold its own when occupied by men of ample mental equipment, who were learned as well as godly, and whose practical wisdom was equal to their religious zeal. He advocated the revival of the order of "Superintendents," the greater development of the order of deacons, the institution of an order of deaconesses, an order of evangelists, and of canons. Respecting creeds, Dr. Story said that all symbols or creeds or confessions originated in the desire to assert an impugned truth, or to testify against a predominant heresy. None was ever primarily devised as a *test*, as the confession of Faith was now applied, nor could be so applied if the Church's belief in the indwelling Spirit were more direct and vital. "The attitude of the church towards the Confession had undoubtedly undergone a change in the last twenty years, and some good churchmen had begun to recognize the fact that theology was progressive, and that the nineteenth century could not be bound by the seventeenth nor any other." He was not an advocate for revolution in the usage and order of the church as now existing, but favoured the idea of judicious reform, through a frank recognition of that liberty of thought which was their birth-right, and of that authority of Scripture which ought to be the watch-word of Protestantism.

Turning to our own side of the Atlantic, the *Southern Presbyterian* says:—The Synod of South Carolina declined the invitation of the Assembly of 1881 to nominate suitable persons to be appointed delegates to the Third General Council of Presbyterian Churches, the majority being unwilling to commit the Synod so far to the endorsement of this extra-constitutional institution. "Some of the utterances during the last meeting of the General Council of the Presbyterian Alliance, mostly by members from Canada and Scotland, did not tend to recommend the Alliance to many in this country outside of the Southern churches." Dr. John Hall and Dr. W. M. Taylor, of New York, are said to agree in their views that spasmodic evangelistic work, done out of the regular way, is for the most part ineffective. Dr. Taylor, however, says that in so far as Mr. Moody is concerned he did a great work "in putting religion into the air, so to speak; that he has made it easier to talk to the people on religious matters than it was before. He has in his way familiarised the public mind with religion, and to that extent paved the way, and it is for the Churches to follow up the advantage thus gained." The new census shows 92,653 Protestant churches in the United States, with 71,662 ministers

and 9,003,030 members. The American Bible Revision Committee are steadily prosecuting their work. On the Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the last week in each month a number of venerable and learned men meet in Dr. Schaff's study, and from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. the work of perfecting the Old Testament Scriptures is carried on. They have been thus at work since 1872 and are now engaged in the third and last revision, which will probably be completed in a year. Dr. Schaff says that the Old Testament needed revision much more than the new, "especially such poorly translated books as Job and the Prophets." He does not think, however, that its completion will awaken quite as much interest as the Revised New Testament did, "because fewer people read the Old Testament." They are taking special pains with the Psalms. In Canada, the most important ecclesiastical event of the past month was the meeting of the joint committee of the Methodist churches with a view to arriving at a satisfactory basis of union. The progress of their negotiations has been very remarkable, an amount of unanimity prevailing their councils beyond the expectations of the most sanguine. The two great questions upon which diversity of opinion and practice most largely prevailed had reference to lay representation and the episcopate, and as these have been amicably settled by mutual concessions, all else is merely matter of time and routine. Indeed, these details are so far advanced that provisional arrangements have been made for convening the first general Conference of the united bodies at Belleville on the first Wednesday of September next. This is another and most cheering indication that the growth of Christian sentiment in this country is in the right direction. The consummation will be gratifying to all the other evangelical denominations in the Dominion, and to none more so than to the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

IRELAND.—The chief secretary of Ireland stated in the House of Commons lately that the official returns showed a less degree of crime in the country than the records of many years past. This is welcome news as regards the whole country, but a fresh outbreak of a very serious kind has taken place in the city of Dublin. It looks as if the Repression Act in its operations had driven the most dangerous out-laws from the country into the city. Among other outrages one of the jurors on the Hynes case was murdered in the street. An attempt was made on the life of Judge Lawson, but the design of the assassin was thwarted. The Colleges of the Presbyterian Church have been opened for the session under unusually favorable auspices. The Belfast College, which is purely theological, was