

realization, not in any similar sacerdotal orders of Christian pontiff, priest and Levite, but first in the exclusive, real High Priesthood of Christ, and then in the universal participation of a *spiritual* priestly function by Christians. The result is in relation to *Psalmody*, that while in the Jewish church it was *official* and *representative*, it is to in the Christian church emphatically CONGREGATIONAL. All the faithful, without exception,—the entire mass of the Christian commonalty, equally with any official persons,—are possessed of the privilege, endowed with the right, and called to the duty, of celebrating “the service,” and swelling “the song.”

The principles here stated, we believe, will commend themselves to enlightened students of the word, and are of wide application. They form, indeed, a rule to guide us in many points connected with the observance of this ordinance. But upon them we cannot now enter.

While, however, the general rule holds good, that praise is an exercise for seasons of joy, and prayer for seasons of sorrow, yet such are the treasures of consolation provided in the gospel, that the child of God rejoices in tribulation, and therefore has given to him songs even in the darkest night of his affliction. Thus Paul and Barnabas at Philippi cast into the inner prison and their feet made fast in the stocks, “at midnight prayed and sang praises unto God, and the prisoners heard them.”

PRESBYTERIAN ANNIVERSARIES.

Synod of the English Presbyterian Church.

This Synod met late in April. Its proceedings indicated increasing vigour and energy. Its foreign missions, its educational efforts, its church building enterprises, all are prosperous. Dr. McCrie has resigned his Professorship. Dr. Cairns of the United Presbyterian Synod was offered a Professorship by the English Synod, but he felt constrained to decline the offer. The English Synod is strongly in favour of Union.

Reformed Presbyterian Synod.

The most important subject that came before this Synod was the report of the

Union Committee. That report was very favourably received, and the Synod resolved unanimously to proceed with the negotiations. The sum collected for the *Dayspring* this year amounted to £304, about the same as the contribution of last year.

United Presbyterian Synod.

Mr. Finlayson of Edinburgh was elected Moderator. The statistics of the church show most encouraging progress. The communicants last year numbered 174,947, while in 1860 the number was 163,554.—Since 1859 not less than fifty-six congregations had been added to the Synod's roll, seven of these being in the Presbytery of Newcastle, eleven in the Presbytery of Lancashire, and nine in the Presbytery of London. Thus one-half of their Church extension during the past six years has been in England. The contributions of the Church for the past year exhibited a progress still more decided. The aggregate congregational income for strictly congregational objects for the year had been £203,398, being an increase of £8,374 on the preceding year, and the total benevolent income had been £71,946. During 1866, £4,462 was added to the stipends of the Church, by far the greater part of which had occurred where it was not so urgently required, viz., among stipends above £150. The stipends of forty ministers had during the year been raised by local effort to £150.

Great progress has also been made in providing manses for the ministers of the church. £36,000 have been subscribed for this purpose. The organ question came before the Synod, when it was resolved, by a vote of 232 to 136, not to allow the use of organs. The Union question was discussed with great ability and earnestness, and a favourable decision arrived at by a majority of 350—the division being 339 to 39.

The Foreign Mission report showed that there was a steady decline in the membership of the Jamaica Mission. The Aleppo Mission (Syria) has completely failed after a trial of eight years. All the other Missions are flourishing. Irrespective of operations on the continent the Synod has 36 ordained European missionaries, 2 European medical missionaries, 7 ordained native missionaries, 2 European evangelists, 12 native evangelists, 10 European teachers, and upwards of 100 native teachers; or, altogether, an educated agency of more than 170 persons. Besides several stations, there were 40 congregations, with an aggregate membership of 5,615, and 106 day schools, attended by 5,464 scholars.

Dr. CAIRNS has been appointed to the chair of Apologetical Theology. The attendance on the Synod was larger than ever before—443 ministers and 205 elders.