

took place, to show how many places were represented, and what the general feeling was. It was unfortunate that the French brethren were not able to be present, for both the National and the Free Churches that represent the Protestantism of France are Presbyterian in constitution; but a Committee was appointed to confer with them and ascertain their mind on the matter.

Dr. McCosh first spoke, submitting the subject for consideration, strongly advocating the formation of some such Council, and suggesting what its powers and prerogatives ought to be.

Dr. Crosby stated that as different objections to the proposal would arise in different minds, he might mention the only two that had occurred to him, and how these had been answered by himself. (1) The fear that there might be some compulsory effort toward an organic union. He thought that the well known Conservatism of Presbyterianism would guard against any premature attempt at that. On the other side, it ought to be known that the Unions already accomplished in Ireland and the United States had added tenfold to the fervour and power of the Churches. (2) Would there be any practical results from the convening of such a Council? The good results of the Evangelical Alliance Conference answer that. We see that the fact of Christians coming together from various lands to manifest their unity, to receive information concerning one another's ways, thoughts, and position, and to consult concerning common dangers and common interests, involve and are objects in the highest sense "practical."

Dr. Knox of Belfast stated that the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church had passed an overture, after it had been on the table for a year, unanimously approving of the proposed Council. He mentioned that there are in Ireland four small Presbyterian Churches in addition to the great body represented by the General Assembly.

Dr. Noble of Pittsburgh drew attention to the fact that the General Assembly of the United States Church appointed a Committee last May, with some such instruction as the following: "Whereas there is substantial unity, and it is desirable to manifest that which

exists among Churches holding the Westminster standards, the Committee are requested to correspond with such sister Churches, with the view of bringing about an Ecumenical Council, especially with the view of co-operating in Home and Foreign Missionary work.

Dr. Cook of Quebec stated that he had been profoundly impressed by the accounts of the state of religion in Continental Europe. It would appear that in many countries, Evangelical religion was weak, and actually struggling for the right to exist; all but crushed out between the two formidable foes of Romanism on the one hand, and Rationalism or utter infidelity on the other. He thought that in face of this fact we needed a wider union than any that had been yet contemplated.

Dr. Reed, Moderator of the C. P. Church, said that various good objects would be helped on by the Council, such as, Transference of Ministers, Home and Foreign Missions, Education for the Ministry, and Sanctification of the Lord's Day. He hoped that something practical would be done at this meeting.

Dr. Matthews of New York, as representing the U. P. Church of the United States, said that there was no doubt that a Federal Union could be brought about in cases where an organic union was impossible.

Rev. Mr. Miller, of the English U. P. Church, London, spoke as the representative of a congregation, five-sixths of whom had originally been Episcopalians. He said that the Church of England was falling to pieces through having irreconcilable principles and parties in its bosom; and that the great objection in the minds of Englishmen to Presbyterianism was that it seemed to them—if not purely Scotch—yet something local and congregational. Can we not open a home for the Evangelical party in that Church, by showing to them, in a manifest form, that Presbyterianism is universal in its application and actual extent?

Dr. Simpson of Derby agreed with the preceding speaker.

Dr. Jones, President of Trevecca College, said that the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church would look with favour on the proposed scheme.

Matteo Prochet of Geneva, Moderator of the Waldensian Church, said that