

no return to the treasurer for the last year. We trust we have only to mention that the funds are exhausted, that the Church is under obligations to young men at college, whom we have undertaken to educate, in order to insure immediate attention to this very important matter. It is very pressing, and we hope no further delay will take place unnecessarily.

IT WILL BE SEEN from an advertisement in another place, that the Church has now completed its arrangements for entering the Foreign missionary field, so far as means and location are concerned, and, it is to be hoped, that one fitted for the important and trying work will shortly be found, one willing and able to serve his Divine Master in one of the many dark corners of the earth—looking to a reward, higher and nobler than any this world can afford.

THE RELIGIOUS WORLD IN ENGLAND continues to be much agitated about Colenso and his book, though it is evident that the fate of both will be nothing either higher or better than a temporary, though very painful notoriety. The speculations on the Pentateuch are gradually but surely finding their natural level, and we are much mistaken if, five years hence, both they and their author shall not have passed entirely out of sight and almost of recollection.

THERE HAS BEEN A DISRUPTION in the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Scotland. Most of our readers are aware, that this small but respectable body have adhered firmly and literally, to what is known as the Solemn League and Covenant, which prevents their ministers from praying publicly for the Queen, or for civil authorities, and would also deny to its lay members, the right of exercising the elective franchise, of holding the office of magistrate, or serving as Volunteers. The causes which led to the adoption of these principles, have long practically perished, and the truth is, there is, perhaps, nowhere more loyal subjects, more excellent and law-observing citizens, than the "Covenanters" of the present day. But old associations are sometimes as

dear as living principles, and accordingly we find the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church cut into two unequal segments, rather than relinquish what had come to be a shadow. We regret the act, but respect and honor the sincerity, which we doubt not actuated the minority—eleven, we think, in number—who, undismayed by their weakness, have constituted themselves into a Synod, and made arrangements for a "Hall" of their own. Might not their courage and energy be a passing lesson to ourselves?

TURNING OUR ATTENTION, for a few moments, to secular matters, we find, during the past month, that the Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia have fallen almost simultaneously. Into the causes which led to this state of things, we cannot enter.

THAT TERRIBLE AND DEVASTATING CIVIL WAR is every month assuming greater proportions. Each successive battle is more bloody than its predecessors, and the cry still is, "What availeth it?" Peace seems more distant, if possible, than ever. The last great slaughter at or near Fredericksburg would seem only to have whetted the public appetite for blood. Victory once more crowned the arms of the Confederates, which was, however, dearly purchased by the death of General Jackson, by far the most remarkable man that this sad contest has brought to the surface. The army of the Potomac is for the moment idle, but the Federals are using great efforts to get unfettered command of the Mississippi, by the capture of Vicksburg, near which, a series of desperate, but indecisive battles have been fought, with no result, beyond a lamentable waste of life. The Alabama continues her depredations on the sea, thus keeping alive constant irritation of feeling, in the American mind, against England.

Letters on business to be addressed to Mr. William Jack.

Printed and published for the proprietors, on the first Saturday of each month, by SIMON H. HOLMES, Standard Office, Pictou.

## SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH:

|        |   |                      |         |
|--------|---|----------------------|---------|
| 1863   |   | YOUNG MEN'S SCHEME.  |         |
| May.   | Cash per Rev. G. M. Grant,  |                      | £29 5 0 |
|        | Cash from Charles M. Grant, for principal and interest of £10, given him, | 12 5 0               |         |
|        | Cash Rev. Mr. Sinclair, collected in Roger's Hill Congregation,           | 3 12 0               |         |
| 1863   |   | SYNOD FUND.          |         |
| April. | Cash West Branch R. John Congregation,                                    |                      | £0 18 5 |
|        | Cash East Branch E. P. Congregation,                                      | 2 12 6               |         |
|        | Collection St. Peter's R. 1, P. E. Island,                                | 1 0 0                |         |
| May.   | Collection Earltown Congregation,   | 1 7 7½               |         |
| 1863   |   | MISSIONARY SERVICES. |         |
| May.   | Cash from River John Congregation,<br>Pictou, June 3, 1863.               |                      | £4 0 0  |

W: GORDON, Treasurer.