

Comes Again With Spring.

The conference held at Cleveland from which was issued a statement on the Briggs' case has been a fertile subject of remark and controversy in the religious press of the United States. A lawyer, Mr. H. Scott Howell, takes up the refusal to abide by the decision of the Church courts implied in the holding of a defiant conference, and treats it from a lawyers' standpoint thus:—"For over forty years I have been practising in courts of law, including the Supreme Courts of several States and of the United States. I have learned therein, when a question has been settled by the Supreme Court, to yield and respect it, whether I like it or not. As an elder in the Presbyterian Church for over thirty years, I have learned the same thing, and I expect to yield the same respect to the highest court of our Church that I do to the Supreme Court of the United States. I believe this principle of yielding obedience to constituted authority, whether in the home, the State, or the Church, is fundamental, and the duty of every Christian minister, elder, and layman." Against this blunt, matter of fact, deliverance, the pro. Briggs press has railed ad lib. The *Evangelist* airily argues:—"But we will not argue a point, when we have an arbiter that would be an end of all strife. Since all parties have unbounded confidence in the Supreme Court of the United States, why not take the question there? It will not be the first time that the Civil Courts have had to adjudicate in matters of the Church. More than once have they been appealed to to restrain the use, or abuse, of ecclesiastical power, when it may involve a title to property. Surely a lawyer of long experience can find some way to bring this cause before the Court of last resort. Let him then make his appeal without delay, and let us have a judicial decision: whether the General Assembly has a right to make a Creed for us simply by the vote of a majority: and to impose new Articles of Faith, which have no place in the Confessions that have come down to us from our fathers, as the authorized Law and Constitution of the Presbyterian Church; and whether, in case of refusal to accept these modern inventions, said majority has a right to subject the minority to the penalties of ecclesiastical discipline? If these questions could ever be brought before that august tribunal, it is just possible that even a veteran who has 'practiced in courts at law for forty years,' might learn something to his advantage, and return to the banks of the Mississippi 'a sadder and a wiser man.'"

Anonymous. A number of communications having been received for publication lately without signatures it is necessary to remind correspondents that the correct name and address must accompany all such letters in order that they may, if suitable, appear in our columns. But the names will not be published unless desired.

Sabbath Rest. Mrs. Drew, a daughter of Mr. Gladstone, has been giving to the public some account of her father's home life. Among other things, she says that if it had not been for his Sunday's rest, he would not now be the man he is. "Physically, intellectually, and spiritually," she says, "his Sunday has been to him a priceless blessing. Any one who enters his room in Downing Street on a Sunday, even during the height of the session, could scarcely fail to be struck by the atmosphere of repose—the books lying open near the arm-chair, the deserted writing table, the absence of

papers and newspapers. From Saturday night to Monday morning he puts away all business of a secular nature, keeps to his special Sunday books and thoughts, and never dines out that day unless to cheer a sick or sorrowful friend; nor will he ever travel on Sunday."

The Late Mrs. Macdonnell. The deep sympathy of the Church and of the community—for neither Mr. Macdonnell nor his late consort belonged exclusively to the Presbyterian Church—has gone out to the stricken pastor and his family in the hour of their sore bereavement. That the God of all true comfort may be very present to them and the sunshine of His grace warm their souls is the sincere prayer of mourning thousands.

Knox Collogo Closing. In connection with the closing of Knox College for the session, the Senate will meet at 7 p.m. on the 4th prox; the Board on the 5th at 1.30 p.m.; on the same day the closing exercises will commence at 3 p.m., when certificates and prizes will be awarded. On the same evening there will be a public meeting in West Church, when there will be addresses by Rev. Principal Caven, Rev. J. Somerville, and Rev. J. McD. Duncan. The annual Alumni meeting will be held on Wednesday the 4th, at 10.30 a.m., when officers will be elected and arrangements made for its jubilee.

Reception to Neal Dow. A "call" has been issued by temperance workers in the United States and Canada for a reception to Gen. Neal Dow, in honor of his 90th birthday, and for an international Temperance Congress at Prohibition Park, Staten Island, on June 3rd, 4th and 5th. The "call" is numerous and influentially signed and the reception and congress are likely to rank among the greatest temperance demonstrations ever held on the continent. The basis of representation in the Congress is as follows: Local organizations are entitled to one delegate to every twenty members; organizations representing less than a Province, five delegates each; Provincial organizations, ten each; National organizations, twenty each. Each delegate will be expected to present credentials, signed by the proper officer of the Society or Organization that he represents. General Dow is in cordial concurrence with the idea, and will make the Congress the occasion of a farewell address to temperance co-workers.

French Evangel. The following report it is hoped will receive the prompt consideration it so urgently calls for at the hands of friends of work among the French Canadians:—"At the General Meeting of the Board of French Evangelization on the 15th inst., the Treasurer's statement showed receipts for the ordinary fund to date to be \$17,174.05, and expenditure \$18,821.46, and also a careful estimate calling for \$6,675.00 before the 30th of April in order to close the year free from debt. The Board resolved unanimously to appeal for increased gifts to make up the sum asked for, and to earnestly request a prompt response from congregations and friends so as to be relieved from further curtailing this department of the Church's missionary work by withdrawing missionaries and discontinuing mission schools. To draw back now is most undesirable, inasmuch as there are several new fields which should be entered. By order, and on behalf of the Board, D. H. MacVicar, D.D., LL.D., Chairman; S. J. Taylor, Secretary.