

CURRENT NEWS.

The U. P. Synod and Free Church Assembly adopted overtures with a view to the disestablishment and disendowment of the Established Churches of England and Scotland.

The Established Church, notwithstanding the hostility of those Churches to her, reappointed her Committee on Union! Mothers are forbearing!

Dr. David Arnot, St. Giles, Edinburgh, is numbered with the dead.

On the 20th inst. the Rev. D. Macrae, before he commenced his sermon at Gourrock, reviewed the work of the Synod and referred to the "Battle of the Standards" on the previous Thursday. He said, "The great victory that had been gained for reform in the appointment of a Synodical Committee will have delighted you, as it has delighted and surprised me. Nothing seemed more hopeless when the battle commenced only a few months since; and yet the first great point is gained. In view of that victory, it is a small matter that the Synodical decision which initiates reform should have included a censure on those who showed its necessity. Strong in the consciousness of rectitude, the censure will, I daresay, sit as lightly on you as it does on me. The kick of the gun is a small thing to bear, when the shot has been fired that should bring down the evils complained of, and clear the pathway of progress."

ST. JOHN'S FIRE.

Most of our readers are already aware that a most disastrous fire has visited St. John city, destroying life to the extent of about one hundred or so, and property to the amount of about twenty million dollars, and depriving about twenty thousand people of a home. Such a calamity could not fail to call forth

prompt and deep sympathy. Aid flowed in from every hamlet, village, town, and city, where the cry of distress had reached.

He is hardened beyond hope that could withhold his mite under circumstances so distressing. How unsubstantial and uncertain are this world's goods, for which some labor so hard, and others take so much pains to accumulate—when tried by fire where are they? We are taught important lessons at our neighbor's expenses—1st, not to spend our time for that alone which may in a few hours be but dust and ashes; 2nd, with what God has given us to do the most possible good; and 3rd, to lay up our treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not corrupt.

Disaster follows so close on disaster, nowadays, that people are apt to allow the claims of real sufferers to escape from their minds, and country districts are apt to think that the flow of liberality from the cities leaves no room for their alms—this is a mistake, and country congregations should not lose this opportunity of practically expressing their sympathy with the victims of the St. John fire, and their gratitude to God for averting such calamities from themselves.

We notice one congregation, the Kirk congregation at Roger's Hill, contributed by door-plate collection, over forty dollars, notwithstanding the universal cry of "hard times."

We omit the Sermon this month in order to give our readers a digest of the assemblies.

The local items are crowded out of this number by the news of "The Assemblies."

The Rev. Wm. McMillan will, (D. V.) preach at River Inhabitants, C. B. on Sabbath 15th inst.