

## Commission of General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

THIS Court met on the 8th of this month (August), the Moderator of Assembly in the chair. The business before it was a resolution on the Confession of Faith. It will be seen by readers of last month's *Record* that there was a discussion on this subject before the Assembly in June which resulted in a resolution to the effect that "Church judicatories be directed and enjoined to see that all persons who shall have signed the Confession shall not directly or indirectly depart therefrom, but shall loyally and consistently adhere thereto." This motion was generally submitted to, but, since the meeting of Assembly, counter-expressions, and from some leaders within the Church, having arisen, it was now moved, seconded, and agreed to, that whereas the General Assembly, at its meeting of 30th May, pronounced the following deliverance:—

"Whereas it is essential to the peace and unity of the Church that her relation to the Confession of Faith as her doctrinal standard shall be loyally and consistently maintained; and whereas the doctrine and government of the Church, as set forth in the aforesaid Confession, have been discredited by the expressed opinions of persons of influence in the Church;—the General Assembly direct and enjoin all the judicatories of the Church to see that all persons who shall have signed the aforesaid Confession shall not directly or indirectly depart therefrom, but shall loyally and consistently adhere thereto. And whereas it has been reported that the expressions of opinion thus condemned and prohibited by the General Assembly have been resumed since its rising, the Commission instruct the Agent for the Church to send a certified extract of last General Assembly to the Clerks of the several Presbyteries of the Church, to be communicated to the first meeting of the said Presbyteries."

It may be added that the passing of two motions upon conformity to the Standards this year, proves the importance the Church attaches to the subject, and her fear lest her members and ministers depart from the faith, and the body be no longer united, sound, and faithful. Hold fast, then, the form of sound words; and meddle not with those given to change. A. W. H.

## England--the sources of her Strength.

BY HENRY WARD BEECHER.

"THE proudest sovereign in the world is Queen Victoria. She dignifies womanhood and motherhood, and she is fit to sit in empire. There is one reason why the English throne is the strongest also, because it is so many legged. It stands on thirty millions of people. It represents the interests of the masses of the subjects. Another reason why England is the strongest nation is because it is the most Christian nation—because it has the most moral power. It has more than we have. We like to talk about ourselves on the 4th of July—we love to fan ourselves with eulogies—I know her stubborn conceit—I know how many things are mischievous among her common people, among her operatives of the factory, among her serfs

of the mine; but taking her up on one side, and down on the other, there is not another nation that represents so much Christianity as Old England. If you do not like to hear it, I like to say it; and the strongest power on the face of the globe to-day is that kingdom. It is the strongest kingdom, and the one that is least likely to be shaken down. England has been destroyed every ten or fifteen years from the time of Armada to the present day, in the prophecies of men. Every few years she has been about to be overthrown by sea; she has been about to be ploughed up by land; she has been about to be stripped of her resources in India, and other parts of the globe. Nations have formed alliances against her, the armies and fleets of the civilized world have gone about her; her interests, political and pecuniary, have been repeatedly and violently assailed, and yet she has stood as she now stands, mistress of the seas, and the strongest power on earth, because she has represented the moral element."

## An Act

TO REGULATE THE TEMPORAL AFFAIRS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THIS COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES. [Assented to, 12th May, 1865.]

Whereas by an Act of Council passed in the eighth year of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth number seven certain powers privileges and advantages were conferred upon the Presbytery of New South Wales and the Ministers of the Churches and Congregations under its spiritual superintendence And whereas by an Act of Council passed in the fourth year of the reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria number eighteen the several powers privileges and advantages conferred upon the Presbytery of New South Wales and the Ministers of the Congregations under its spiritual superintendence by the said Act eighth William the Fourth number seven were vested in the Synod of Australia in connexion with the Established Church of Scot and and the Ministers of the Congregations under its spiritual superintendence as fully and effectually to all intents and purposes as if the said Synod had been specially named and mentioned therein And whereas since the formation of the said Synod of Australia another Presbyterian Synod has been formed in the said Colony known as the General Synod of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales consisting of certain Ministers and representative ruling Elders of certain Congregations of Presbyterians the Ministers and ruling Elders of such Congregations not being under the spiritual superintendence of nor having any ecclesiastical connexion with the said Synod of Australia And whereas there is a Congregation of Presby-