

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

THE annual meeting of this Supreme Court was held last November. Its proceedings were interesting, as showing the perfect unanimity in all the great work and schemes of the Church that characterizes a body composed of the Kirk, the Free Kirk, and the U. P's. During the preceding year they had received twelve accessions to the number of their preachers, from Tasmania, New Zealand, Bombay, and Scotland; five of these being of the Established Church, the others of various other shades. They have missions to the Chinese and to the Aborigines. It was stated that 22 per cent. of the population of the Colony, or over 160,000 people, belonged to the Presbyterian Church. Their subscription list for the endowment of the Theological Hall now amounts to nearly \$70,000. The capital of the several funds of the Church is steadily accumulating, the whole amounting to \$125,000. During the proceedings, an overture was submitted from the Presbytery of Ballarat, concerning

REVISION OF THE WESTMINSTER STANDARDS.

The mover of the overture stated that "they could not but feel that the Puritans were not the best substitute for the old John Knox type of believers; and if they compared the Confession of Faith of John Knox in 1560 with the Confession of the Westminster divines in the succeeding century, they would find a much more healthy atmosphere about the former than the latter. The one was like the ringing shout of victory from a people just set free, and the other seemed to have come from a beleaguered army guarding itself very carefully from little things which looked larger than their importance warranted. A great point was the Arminian controversy, and the consequence was that the Puritans became more Calvinistic than Calvin ever was. The time would come when they would have to revise their whole Standards from bottom to top. This overture, however, only concerned the Directory for Worship. It was important to have a Directory, and Presbyterians were just as much bound to follow their directory as a minister of the Church of England was to follow the Liturgy of his Church, though few Presbyterian ministers had felt it binding upon them. It would have been better had ministers of the Church been a little more attentive to the directions of the Manual of Worship instead of employing too much an objectionable form of extempore prayer. It was very harassing and distressing to hear a lecture on theology solemnly delivered in prayer to Almighty God, as if He did not understand His own method of grace. Ministers ought to go before the throne of grace, not with the view of delivering a lecture, but of laying their hearts open before our heavenly Father, and expressing feelings of penitence for sin, and longing for happiness. The Directory of Worship had fallen into great neglect, and there was much in it that needed alteration. The Directory ought to be remodelled to suit it to the 19th Century."

A Committee was appointed to consider the matter, and bring up a report to next Assembly. Taken in connection with recent movements and speeches in England and Scotland, these utterances, and the action of the Assembly on them at the Antipodes, are extremely significant.

BABOO KESHUB CHUNDER SEN'S VISIT TO BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

THIS distinguished man, who has succeeded Rajah Rammohun Roy as the acknowledged head of the progressive Brahmo Samaj, was to leave Calcutta for England on the 15th Feb'y. Several Baboos will accompany him. The late Governor-General of India, Lord Lawrence, has cordially invited him to his