

statements good and well, otherwise, let the Presbytery do its duty in accordance with the laws of the Church. A very moderate degree of prudence on the part of Dr. Wallace is evidently all that is needed to keep the vantage-ground that he already has.

The Free Church Assembly was opened by its Moderator, Dr. Duff, in a speech which, as nearly as overwhelmed reporters can calculate, would fill about twenty columns of an ordinary newspaper! One journal is wicked enough to say that he spoke "precisely four hours too long,"—meaning, we suppose, that he should not have spoken at all. But we should always make generous allowance for the garrulity of old age. The big portentous cloud that hung over the Assembly during the first stage of its proceedings, happily lifted itself. The "mutual eligibility" question, which has occupied so much discussion over the length and breadth of Scotland during the past year, has been quietly settled. But if all that is said be true, the chances of a disruption in the Free Church were imminent; indeed the minority are reported to have had a hall ready in which to meet after they had seceded from their brethren. In terms of Dr. Candlish's resolution, which was carried without a division, after a protracted and keenly argued debate, the General Assembly "resolved to suspend negotiations for union until God in His providence may be pleased to grant clearer light as to the path of duty in this whole matter." In regard to the eligibility of ministers of the other negotiating churches, it is ordained that the Presbytery clerk in such cases shall transmit to the person to be inducted copies of certain acts setting forth the distinctive principles of the Free Church of Scotland. If, with those in his possession, he feels disposed to sign the formula appointed to be used at the induction of Free Church ministers, then may he be eligible to accept a call. That is to say, by declaring that he is a full blown Free Church man. The concession on the part of the Free Church seems to us, at this distance, and with an imperfect knowledge of all the circumstances, to be a small one indeed. And although the claimed victory seems very like a defeat, better ten such defeats than another disruption.

June, by common consent, has been selected as the most fitting month for holding the annual convocations of the various Protestant Canadian churches, and our exchanges are so full of the sayings and doings of ecclesiastical assemblages as to render anything approaching to an intelligible *vidimus* of their proceedings impossible. We may remark, however, that the General Assembly of the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH finally accepted the basis of Union as it is found in the report of our own Synod by a vote of 350 to 125, and also approved of the appended resolutions by a large majority, and resolved, in terms of the Barrier Act, to send them down to Presbyteries, Kirk-sessions and congregations for their consideration, to report at the next meeting of the Assembly to be held in Ottawa on the first Tuesday of June, 1874. After a long and anxious discussion we are happy to learn that the union of the Wesleyan and New Con-

nexion Methodist churches has been almost unanimously agreed upon. The admission of the laity to take part in the proceedings of Conference marks a very important step in advance on the part of our Methodist brethren, bringing them, in fact, by so much, nearer to our own standard of church government; and, as coming events cast their shadows before, we almost discover the presage of another important change in the polity of the Methodist Church in the closing sentences of the President's pastoral address where he speaks of *Itineracy* as "a system from which our nature revolts. It demands sacrifices, but they are noble sacrifices—sacrifices made for the glory of Christ's Kingdom." At the meeting of the Diocesan Synod of the Anglican Church held in Montreal, it was announced that several liberal subscriptions had been received towards the establishment of an additional theological college to be located in Montreal. It was also resolved to raise the *minimum* salary of the clergy to \$800. The Christian people of Canada are to be congratulated that all these meetings of their several church courts have been characterized by an unusual degree of harmonious and conciliatory action. "Blessed are the peacemakers."

## Literary Notices.

OCEAN TO OCEAN, by the REV. GEO. M. GRANT, of Halifax, James Campbell & Son, Toronto.—It is to be regretted that so little taste has been displayed in the mechanical getting up of this book, which is really one of great merit and value. It professes to be a truthful, unvarnished description of what the writersaw with his own eyes in his journey of 5314 miles from Halifax to Vancouver's Island. In regard to things described which he didn't see, well, he tells us that he didn't see them, but gives his authorities. He goes in strongly for the little Province of Manitoba as a desirable place for settlement. It is only 135 miles long and 105 miles broad to be sure, but almost every acre of its soil is fertile prairie—before many years it may equal some of the larger provinces in population. And when that is filled up, there remains to be occupied the vast "fertile belt" along the Saskatchewan Valley, "a thousand miles long, and from one to four hundred miles broad! A fair land to look upon; rich in furs and fish, in treasures of the forest, the field and the mine; well watered, well wooded, healthy, capable of containing a population of millions." We are glad to hear that the book is having a large sale.

GUIDE TO EDINBURGH.—Messrs. James Middlemiss & Co., of Edinburgh, have done good service to the travelling community, and to lovers of antiquarian lore in particular, in publishing this beautifully illustrated *vade mecum*, without which no one should visit *Auld Reekie*. It is to be had at 18 South Bridge, Edinburgh. The publisher would consult his own interest and very much benefit the public by furnishing the leading hotels on this side of the Atlantic with