

should consist primarily of one by each Congregation at the usual time for public worship, devoted to the exercises of thanksgiving and humiliation, and to a discourse or address on some topic pertinent to the occasion. At this service, as in previous discourses on the subject, every Minister will have the opportunity of impressing on his own Congregation those views which he may deem important in connection with our denominational principles. But considering on how many important points all Reformed Churches are agreed, and especially all the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, and how desirable it is that the extent of their agreement should be acknowledged, realized, and exhibited, the opportunity is most favourable and the call strong for united services in commemorating an event of common interest. The Committee, therefore, recommend that not only in all the towns, but in every locality where the Ministers and Congregations of this Church, by vicinity to those of other Evangelical Churches, Established or Dissenting, can promote conjoint meetings for celebrating the Reformation, by a succession of devotional exercises and addresses, without compromising or trenching on denominational differences, this manner of improving the afternoon or evening of the day of celebration should be embraced. The interchange of pulpits with ministers of other Churches, to exhibit and advance the Reformed principles and doctrines held in common, were also most befitting on the Lord's-day immediately preceding or following the General Celebration. With steadfast adherence to distinctive principles, let us cherish catholicity of spirit, and seek co-operation and unity with others to the extent of our agreement. *Whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.*

HENRY RENTON, *Convener.*

INVITATION FROM CALCUTTA TO UNITED PRAYER.

A circular on this subject has been prepared by the Rev. Dr. Duff and the Rev. Dr. Ewart on behalf of the Calcutta Missionary Conference. Both these distinguished missionaries state that the Conference have received a suggestion that they should venture "to invite the Churches of our Lord and Saviour to join in a special service of prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, at the commencement of 1861." The Conference gladly respond to the proposal, and suggest that the season of prayer should extend from January 1st, 1861, to the 7th inclusive. They say, that "the 'signs of the times'—the wonderful opening for the gospel in China, Japan, and Central Africa,—the restoration of peace to India,—the remarkable movements in Italy and Turkey,—the stirrings in many places among the scattered remnants of Israel,—the blessed and glorious revivals of religion in the United States of America, in Great Britain and Ireland, in Sweden and other parts of the Continent of Europe,—have all combined in creating in many hearts the joyful hope of the gracious Lord's speedily accomplishing mighty works for the glory of his own great name."

Obituary.

REV. ALEXANDER FLETCHER, D.D.

This celebrated preacher died at his country seat in Essex, England, on Sabbath 30th Sept., in the 74th year of his age. In 1807, he was settled as assistant and successor to his father, who was minister of our Church at Bridge of Teith, Perthshire. In 1811, he removed to London, where he was amazingly popular, and surpassed almost all others in addressing the young. Every year on Christmas day he preached to a vast assembly of children, and marvellously sustained their attention. Several of his publications, especially his "Family Devotions" have had a very large circulation. He was rich and contributed liberally to benevolent and religious objects. It was his practice to pay an annual visit to Scotland, where crowds were eager to hear him. He was, this autumn, to have addressed the working classes in Glasgow, but strength failed, and dropsy came on, which terminated his days.