

THE
Home and Foreign Record
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES

MAY, 1870.

PRESBYTERIAN MAY MEETINGS.

During this month and the next the great Presbyterian Assemblies and Synods will hold their meetings. The results of a year's work will be passed under review, and ground will be mapped out for another year's campaign. Many, if not all, of these important gatherings, will meet in critical and peculiarly interesting circumstances. In Philadelphia the first Assembly of the re-united Presbyterian Church of the United States will meet on the 19th. The sad schism which lasted forty years is healed. Grand schemes of Christian work are to be brought forward and matured so as to call forth the combined energies of the largest Presbyterian body in the world. Five millions of dollars are to be raised as a thank-offering for the blessing of Union.

In Scotland the Assembly of the Established Church will have to deal with the Patronage question. The yoke of the State is becoming irksome; something will be tried to render it lighter. But many fear, while some fondly hope, that the ultimate result of any interference with matters as they stand, will be dis-establishment. The doom of the late Irish Establishment is a significant warning to all ecclesiastical establishments.

The Free Church Assembly will have to grapple with the Union question, now rendered much more serious and difficult than ever before, by the strong opposition of a resolute minority. The result of the next Assembly's deliberations will be expected with anxiety by all the friends of Presbyterian Union.

The United Presbyterian Synod will meet earlier than the Free Church Assembly, and its discussion of the Union question will probably furnish the key-note for those who follow. The English Synods meet still earlier. Their policy now is to consummate a Union in England without waiting for the Scottish brethren.

The Irish Presbyterian Assembly will meet in peculiar circumstances,—this being its first ordinary meeting since the withdrawal of the *Regium Donum*. A Sustentation Fund of at least £30,000 a-year has been determined upon; and the coming Assembly will be in a position to judge of the probable success of plans adopted.

Our parent churches and our sister churches are thus shortly to meet in their solemn assemblies. The Annual Meeting of our Supreme Court is drawing near. Let us prepare to report our year's work and progress. Highly important subjects will come before our Synod demanding the gravest and most mature consideration. Now, if ever, is it imperative on us all to ask wisdom and guidance from the Head of the Church.

OUR STRENGTH.

Presbyterians should strive to lead in every good work—to be behind in no enterprise in which the honour of God and the welfare of men are concerned. "There is something in the Calvinistic faith that develops thought, conserves morals, upholds religious institutions, encourages educa-