

liberty allowed under Her Majesty's Constitutional Government for the proclamation of the gospel, and they welcome the facilities within their reach in the capital of Scotland for consulting together on the subject of that Presbyterian polity to which they were attached, and for uniting in Christian counsel and prayer with the view to the advancement of Christ's cause in all lands. They acknowledged Her Majesty's recognition of Presbyterianism by joining in the Presbyterian worship during her residence in Scotland, and prayed for Her Majesty's temporal and spiritual welfare, and for the prolongation of her life; and they also prayed that the influence of the British nation and of America might combine with those continental States of Europe which are in the enjoyment of peace to bring the horrors of the present war to a speedy end, to mitigate them in the meantime, and to endeavour to restore peace and good order to the nations.

Dr. Hoge, of Virginia, himself a Republican, cheerfully acknowledged that there was not on earth a happier government than the Monarchy over which the Queen presides. It was not only her great distinction to preside over a larger number of subjects than any other Sovereign, but she was the strongest of all others in the loyalty and love of those over whom she presides. No Government upon the earth was stronger in the love of the people. For more than forty years Queen Victoria had presided over the purest Court of any Sovereign in Europe, and this happy result she had secured by her own transcendent virtues. And so far as the relations between the Queen and Scotland were concerned, the unifying sentiment was the Presbyterian Church, for when Her Majesty visited this country she worshipped among her Presbyterian subjects.

Similar expressions came from French, German, Italian and Hungarian delegates, and the decision of the Council was unanimous.

#### THE COUNCIL ON MISSIONS.

An arrangement had been made that the subject of foreign missions should be introduced by a paper by the venerable Dr. Duff. His health prevented his appearing before the Council at all, but he sent a very powerful letter on the subject of Missions to the heathen, and suggested that the Council should arrange a plan by which all the Presbyterian Churches could work together harmoniously in heathen lands. He suggested the NEW HEBRIDES group of islands as a field that might be chosen for a purely Presbyterian mission, there being encour-

agement in the fact that six Presbyterian churches already work together in those islands. The proposals of Dr. Duff were received with much enthusiasm, and a committee was appointed to consider them.

#### MISSIONARY OBLIGATIONS.

Dr. Murray Mitchell, Edinburgh, said that if the Word of God was to be our teacher, all dispute about the obligation to missionary work was foreclosed at once. To deny this would be as complete an abnegation of Christianity as to deny the duty of loving the Lord our God with all our heart, or the loving of our neighbour as ourselves. The extension of the kingdom of God over the whole world ran like a thread of gold through the whole even of the Old Testament, or they might call it a light which dawned in Eden, and shone with ever-increasing brightness, till in the great evangelical prophet, the glory of the Gentiles was seen coming into the Church of God like a flowing stream. And when the Word was made flesh, although for reasons of which even we could comprehend the wisdom, He was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel, yet there came during His earthly life most touching indications of what was in His mind and heart regarding the heathen nations. Take one passage alone:—"Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and there shall be one flock"—that was the word—"one flock, one shepherd." In that one word "must" they had the sublimity of the eternal purpose fixed at the throne of God—"must bring." They had there the infinite yearning of the divine love for perishing sinners. Then came the last word, the farewell request, the one command he thought, which our Lord gave after His resurrection from the dead, "Go into all the world, preaching the gospel to every creature." Preach it to the uttermost parts of the earth; as if He had said—Whatever else ye do, do this, whatever else you forget, I entreat you forget not this. For a time, even the men on whom the Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, though they preached diligently, preached to the Jews only. But when the great revelation of their duty was made known, then there came forward such men as Paul, and his whole soul kindled in the contemplation of what he called "the riches of the glory of the mystery." What mystery? Not that the Gentiles should be converted only, but that they should be made fellow-heirs, fellow-citizens with the saints and with the household of God; that they should be as near and dear to the heart of God as the nearest and dearest of His: en people.