

fund of Five Millions as a Thank Offering for what the Lord has done for them—the fund to be devoted to Missionary purposes. No disruption has followed this glorious re-union; no fragments have been left behind by either the Old or the New School.

Arrangements have been made for a grand meeting of the Evangelical Alliance in New York next autumn. The most noted divines of Great Britain and the Continent are expected to take part in the proceedings.

The Presbyterian Church of the Upper Provinces has now a General Assembly as its highest Court. Our brethren express by resolution and otherwise their desire for the gathering together into one the branches of the Presbyterian family. May we not hope for an Assembly representing all the Churches of our order on the continent of America; for national dividing lines should never interfere with the unity of this body of Christ.

In Scotland, the cause of Presbyterian Union is making progress, although there is an able but numerically small minority in the Free Church opposed to union on the terms hitherto proposed. The Established Church is beginning to realise the necessity of "setting her house in order"; and she has made an appeal to Parliament to relieve her from the yoke of patronage. Her petition is likely to be granted in a way she did not at first anticipate. It is not extravagant to hope that men now living shall witness the re-union of the Scotch Churches on the principles of gospel liberty and love; and wholly free from the entanglements of State connection.

The disestablishment of the Irish Church marks an epoch in British history. The measure has had hitherto no tranquillizing effect on Ireland. The Irish Episcopalians are organizing for self-government; and it is gratifying to see that they are borrowing largely from the Presbyterian system. Our respected sister Church of Ireland—has also been disendowed, the *Regium Donum* is soon to be withdrawn. But this to a Church so full of vitality and vigour is no

calamity. A large hearted, enlightened Christian people will much more than make up for the amount that is to be lost from political changes. The "Maynooth Grant" ceases at the same time with the *Regium Donum*.

In England we have witnessed strange developments of error in the Established Church, Ritualism, Rationalism, Popery having boldly reared their heads in the pulpits of the Establishment regardless of all authority. Repression has been attempted in a few instances but with little or no effect. Dr. Temple, one of the authors of the famous *Essay and Reviews* is now on the bench of Bishops and Colenso is still legally a "Right Reverend Father in God!"

The Church of Rome has now a great Council at Rome, under the Presidency of the Pope. That Council is enjoying its holidays, and will meet again in a few days. The rebellion of Father Hyacinthe—the establishment of freedom of religion in Spain and Austria—the divisions and bitter strife among the Romanists in France and Germany,—all these things tend to weaken the gigantic system of the man of sin.

The year of 1869 was inaugurated with united prayer by the Evangelical world. The prayers of the faithful have no doubt been largely answered. The present year is to open in like manner with universal united supplication at the Throne of Grace. Oh, that its close may find us all, nearer to God, and more like our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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### THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.

There is now at Rome a grand gathering of the Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church. They met on the 8th December, and after swearing allegiance to the Pope, they adjourned till the 6th inst. The object of the Pope in calling the Council is to get its sanction to these three points: 1. The Personal Infallibility of the Pope; 2. The Bodily Assumption of the Virgin Mary; 3. The Universal Temporal Sovereignty of the Pope. The Council meets in