

Articles Contributed.

The General Assemblies.

THE Edinburgh papers, from May 24th to June 4th, were, as usual, filled with "Assembly" news; a sure indication of the undiminished popular interest in what the Churches are doing. The papers that have come to this side of the water have been read as eagerly by our ministers as if they were still living in old Scotia; but as thousands of our people have not seen them, a few words about the Assemblies of this year will not be unwelcome.

Wesay nothing about the U. P. Synod; because we have no room, and, compared either with the Church of Scotland or the Free Church, it represents local and sectarian, rather than national sentiments. Besides, though admirably organized, it is doing little now but holding its own in the land, whereas the other two are adding to their strength every year. The U. P. Synod did, indeed, take an important step in advance this year by all but unanimously leaving the introduction of instrumental music an open question to their congregations. Though the question was brought up in connection with one of their congregations in England, the liberty will at once be acted upon by two or three of their Glasgow congregations; and the sound of the organ will be heard in the U. P. Churches. The Synod has followed the lead of the Church of Scotland in this, having found it impracticable to stem the tide any longer. As dissent is always the natural resource in Dissenting Churches, the Rev. James S. Taylor of Hutchesontown U. P. Church, Glasgow, who has been 44 years an ordained minister of the body, has intimated his withdrawal from it, because of this action of the Synod. Of course he will consider himself a "martyr;" but, like a good many other excellent people, he will be "a martyr by mistake."

In the Free Assembly, Dr. Charles J. Brown was elected Moderator, — a pious, scholarly, rather feminine gentleman. His inaugural address was on "the Providential History of the Disruption." He aimed to trace God's hand in all connected with that event,—

in the outward circumstances that paved the way, in the earnest religious spirit of the time, in the wonderful talents of their leaders, and in "the egregious mistakes" of British statesmen. His minute acquaintance with all the purposes and plans of the Deity is very wonderful. Though a widely different, and perhaps more reverent interpretation of "the ten years Conflict" could be given, we shall let it pass. A new generation has arisen since 1843, to whom more interesting and useful work can be given than to thresh, for the thirty-first time, the straw that has been industriously threshed at thirty General Assemblies and innumerable other private and public assemblages. "Let us have peace."

The finances of the Free Church are in a healthy state, though much of the roseate hue with which they are invested is due to the thorough-going style of their statistics. Nothing is omitted; not a single repair on Church, or manse, or garden; not a single contribution—no matter in what way made; and thus a grand total of £432,000 is made up, less than one-eighth of which,—£2,000, is for missions of all kinds, Indian, African, Jews, Continental, Colonial, &c. Thus £21,000 are set down as raised by the Free Church for Education: but when we examine, we find that less than £10,000 are actually "raised;" all the rest is made up of Government grants, fees, &c. Of course it is all right to have very full statistics; but it is not all right, but positively dishonest, for Free Church sympathizers and newspapers, in the face of repeated protests, to take the £40,000 or £50,000 raised by the Church of Scotland for missions through its regular Schemes, and put that alongside of the £432,000 of the Free Church. Even if they put it alongside of the F. C. £52,000 for missions, a fair comparison would not be made: for in our statistics only the money is put down that goes through the accounts of the regular Treasurers, whereas the F. C. put down everything. Thus Dr. N. McLeod announced that the income for the Indian Mission for the past year was over £10,000; but had he included, as he ought, the additional money subscribed in India, the amount would have been £13,500; and had he included the