

respecting the cost of a larger vessel, with auxiliary steam power, and to forward the result of their enquiries to the Synod in April next. The Board in Sydney are now engaged in procuring the information wanted, and meanwhile, the money collected in the United Kingdom by the Rev. J. G. Paton for the purchase of a new vessel has been invested at interest by the Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

INFIDELITY.

A correspondent of the *Episcopal Recorder*, writing from New York city, says:—"In the line of infidelity I must mention the meeting of the Nineteenth Century Club, which took place a few evenings since; not that I mean that only infidels attend these gatherings but they evidently are in the majority. Col. Bob Ingersoll, Courtland Palmer and Professor John Fiske were present upon the one hand, and Dr. McCosh and Chauncey M. Depew upon the other. Professor Fiske, who is known as a 'cosmic theist,' spoke on 'The Idea of God.—Is Pantheism the outcome of Modern Science.' Mr. Depew was next heard from, who began his remarks by declaring his belief in the Old and New Testaments precisely as they are presented by Christianity, being in direct antagonism with the previous speaker, who accepts them with an interpretation entirely his own. 'How many of us even understand what the philosophers say?' continued Mr. Depew. 'They tell us God must disappear; that prayer is begging; that the holy communion is cannibalism. When did such a religion send out a missionary? When you show me a colony of 10,000 people who have come to live decently by its teachings, I may believe it. But I say now that the Christian faith of my mother is good enough for me. If we believe this faith, what harm? If we disbelieve it, and thereby do wrong, what of our future?'"

PRESBYTERIANISM IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales on March 9th in St. Stephen's Church, Sydney. There were sixty-five ministers and forty-five elders present, the largest number yet assembled. Twenty-one years ago the United Church was formed of three frag-

ments, and only amounted to sixty congregations with ministers. Now there are 110 charges. During the last six years sixty ministers have been imported from the British churches. Thus we have made great progress.

We are now about to federate in one Assembly along with four Australian colonies. The first Federal Assembly is to be held in Sydney in July, and will represent 300 congregations in five Australian colonies. Our Church in New South Wales has a Sustentation Fund, which under the fostering care of the Secretary, the Rev. J. Miller Ross, who founded it, is making progress. The minimum dividend to all ministers placed upon the equal dividend platform, has been £300, but two-thirds have not reached this point yet. They however are aiming at this, and receive a certain amount of aid. The business of the General Assembly was well conducted, and comprehended a variety of matters. It was proposed to inaugurate a fund of £50,000 as a thank-offering for the success of past years, and in a way of celebrating the majority of the Church, the subscriptions are to stretch over a period of five years. The neighbouring church in Victoria is about to celebrate the jubilee of Presbyterianism in that colony, by raising a similar sum of £50,000. Thus our Australian Presbyterians are displaying their interest in the good old cause of their fathers by a liberality worthy of the rich lands in which they have been placed in the providence of God.—*Cor. N. Y. Evangelist.*

She who would be the mother of heroes, must bear herself heroically in their sight. Our little tempers, polite prevarications, lapses from the right line of honor or of Christian charity, our faults which are many, and our foibles which are legion—these tell for us upon our clear-eyed babies tenfold more powerfully than do the neat didacticisms we reckon as precept upon precept; the strong measures we classify as line upon line.—*Marion Harland.*

Good resolutions are often like a loosely-tied cord—on the first strain of temptation they slip. They should be tied in a hard knot of prayer. And they should be kept tight and firm by constant stretching Godward. If they slip or break, tie them again.