

THE
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AND
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THE COUNCIL OF THE ALLIANCE OF
THE REFORMED CHURCHES.

THE Fifth Council of the Alliance has met and passed into history. It is late, but perhaps not too late, to make reference to it; for the gathering was of more than transient importance. It may be permitted to an onlooker, who was present at several previous meetings, to state some impressions in reference to the recent council.

The occasion was one of deep interest. The alarm of cholera and the dread of quarantine may have lessened the number of members, but the attendance was large and representative. When the Alliance was formed in London, in 1875, twenty-two churches in Europe and America took part in the proceedings, and when the first council met in Edinburgh in July, 1877, there were some 48 or 49 churches represented at the meeting. Since that time many of the members of the Presbyterian family have joined the Alliance, and now it represents nearly all the more important Presbyterian or Reformed organizations. It is understood that there are, in all, some 91 distinct Presbyterian Churches, scattered over the world, of which 80 are connected with the Alliance. These bodies report 23,951 ministers, 120,933 elders, 4,092,995 communicants, and upwards of 3,000,000 of children under training in the Sabbath-school, while the adhering population is not less than 20,000,000. In the council at Toronto,