

## The General Presbyterian Council.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

THE designation originally hit upon was the "Pan-Presbyterian" Council. For some reason or other the promoters changed the name in accordance with the above heading. But the earlier prefix has stuck to the delegates, who have been dubbed for all time to come. "Pans": not a very reverent title, to be sure, but one which we do not feel disposed to disown, as it has proved a sufficient passport in every part of the realm, and secured us an amount of kindness and consideration of which we feel ourselves quite unworthy.

One of the most useful discussions in the Council was as the subject of "Practical Co-operation in Missions, and the development of Missionary enterprise." It was introduced by Dr. Herdman, of Melrose, in a paper valuable not only in itself but because it indicated very satisfactorily how these proceedings might be turned to some really practical account, and it had additional weight from the fact that the speaker based his remarks on personal experience, gained through a residence of twenty-four years as a Missionary in India. He referred to this subject as a proper one by which to test the good results which may follow from the meetings of this Council. Dr. Thomson, of Beyrout, the distinguished author of "the Land and the Book," followed in the same strain. He had spent forty years of his life in eastern countries, and confessed it would have been much easier for him to have spoken extempore in Arabic than to read a paper in English. However that may be, his address was to the point, shewing that by general co-operation in Mission work, in the training of Missiona-

ries, and in the conduct of the Press, a large economy of men and means would be effected. He laid the burden of the responsibility for the accomplishment of these ends upon the Home Churches, and the Boards who acted for them. If they continued to send out Missionaries, he said, with a cargo of the old worn-out barriers which had been in use in these lands, and instructed them to erect them in the foreign fields, they would very soon have in these foreign fields the deplorable exhibition of a poor, isolated, weak group of Churches, surrounded by differences which they could not possibly understand, nor in any wise appreciate. Dr. Kalopthakes, of Athens, referred to the importance of training native Missionaries, who could work in foreign fields more effectively and at much less cost than European or American Missionaries could be expected to do. Dr. Phin, as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, gave his assurance that his Church would most cordially co-operate with the other Churches in any proposals that might emanate from the Council in this direction. The result of the debate was the unanimous appointment of a Committee to collect and digest full information as to the fields at present occupied by the Churches of this Alliance—their plans and modes of operations—with instructions to report to the next General Council, together with any suggestions they may judge it wise to submit respecting the possibility of consolidating existing agencies, or preparing the way for co-operation in the future.

The venerable Dr. Plumer, of S. Carolina, conspicuous by his flowing beard, and the shock of snow-white hair that surmounted his gigantic head, was always ready to take the floor, and was always received with the