

senior minister of Beith, in the 71st year of his age, Rev. Thomas Ramage, Free Church Minister of Skirling, and Rev. Dr. Kay, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Edinburgh. Dr. Robert Young, Author of the Analytical Concordance and other valuable works, died in Edinburgh on the 14th of October, G. D.

ENGLAND.—Principal Rainy of Edinburgh, was present at the installation of Dr. Oswald Dykes into the Barbour Chair and Principalship of the Theological College of the Presbyterian Church of England, London. Along with the new creed or "compendium of Doctrine," now under consideration by the Presbyteries of this church, there is a declaratory statement similar to that adopted by the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland in 1879, in which are the following clauses:—

I. That every man who hears the Gospel is responsible for his acceptance or rejection of its free offer of eternal life.

II. That the teaching of the Confession on the subject of man's total depravity since the Fall is not to be understood as denying his responsibility both under the law and under the Gospel, or the existence and value of the natural virtues.

III. That while the duty of proclaiming the Gospel to all men is clear and imperative, and while the proclamation of the Gospel is the ordinary means of salvation for all who are capable of being called thereby; and while it is certain that no one is saved except through the mediation of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the working of the Holy Spirit; Yet it does not follow, nor is it required to be held, either that any who die in infancy are lost, or that God may not extend His mercy to those who are beyond the reach of the ordinary means of salvation, as it may seem good in His sight.

The adoption of this summary of doctrine and declaratory statement, is not intended to abrogate the Westminster Confession of Faith, but to allow some latitude of interpretation to those who have difficulties in subscribing to it.

We sympathize with the Presbyterian Church of England in the great loss it has sustained by the death of its beloved General Secretary, the Rev. John Black, who has been taken away in the prime of life and in the midst of a career of great usefulness, for which he was eminently fitted by a remarkable administrative ability and highest fidelity in the discharge of his duties.

IRELAND.—For some years past the Government Commission dealing with educational endowments has been at work, and the alienation of endowments from the uses intended revealed by this commission, is, in many cases, shocking. The last papers to hand tell of one that may be taken as an example of many. About 180 years ago, a Presbyterian Elder in county Derry died. By his will he left a considerable amount of property to benevolent and pious purposes. Part of it was to found a school in which eight boys were to be educated, clothed and fed, children of parents who wore of repute, but who had become reduced in circumstances. Also an allowance was to be made for old men who were to have the oversight of the boys. Some 30 years after the death of the testator, the

Irish Parliament, the members of which, at that time, could be but of the one dominant church, passed an Act, making the interest of the endowment payable half-yearly to the Archbishop of Armagh, and to his successors for ever. Thus the co-religionists of the testator were deprived of all authority over the disposal of the fund. Such was the "religious equality" that was common in days when Presbyterians, the most loyal of the subjects of the country, could not sit in Parliament or hold any crown office, unless they qualified as a communicant in the parish church. Even now, when the whole Educational Endowments of the country are revised, with some show of justice, it is next to impossible to get even-handed treatment. What is proposed is to put the endowment under a Board, one half of the members being Presbyterians and the other half Episcopalians, but the Archbishop is to be the permanent chairman, with another or casting vote. In other words, the control of the trust is to be put in the hands of Episcopalians. Our Presbyterian friends are protesting very vigorously against such a one-sided arrangement for the disposal of money that was originally their own. H.

UNITED STATES:—Our American Cousins are to be congratulated on their having elected a Presbyterian Elder and Sunday-School Teacher, to be their President. One of our Western exchanges is happy in the thought that now a "family altar" will be erected in the White House, (as if that were a new thing!) Another, predicts, that Mrs. Harrison will see to it, that ladies who attend her receptions shall "adorn themselves in modest apparel." It is beginning to be understood that the work of the church is very largely performed by women. We have a striking illustration of this fact in the statistics of the Presbyterian church for the past year. Their missionary contributions for the past year were as follows: Foreign Missions, \$295,501.03, a gain over previous year of \$43,851.38; Home Missions, \$226,067.24, a gain of \$34,106.94; total for Home and Foreign Missions of \$521,568.27, a total gain over previous year of \$75,622.13. This, it will be understood, is what was done by the women of the church in their distinctive or separate work. It was about one-third of the amount contributed for missions by the entire church. But this was by no means the sum total of their giving. In many instances the general contributions of the church were largely increased by their liberality and spirit of self-sacrifice.

CANADA.—Our Methodist friends are undergoing the bitter experience of a most unreasonable opposition to their University Federation scheme. But this only illustrates the old saying that the course of true love never runs smoothly. That they will come out all right in the long run, we have no doubt.