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Note and Comment

The General Assembly of the Northern Presbyterian Church will meet in Westminster Church, Minneapolis, on Thursday, May 18th, and on the same day the General Assembly of the Southern Church will meet in the First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia.

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To those interested in household matters, the May issue of Table Talk will be welcome with the directions for the economical carrying out of its menu and its tested recipes, as well as its practical general reading matter. A sample copy of Table Talk is offered to our readers, free, if they will send name and address to Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

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In Ev'ry Month for May, an illustrated interview with Ernest Seton Thompson, whose animal stories have given him a more than national reputation, shows his closely allied genius of art and authorship, and offers some charming studies of studio life. To those who are fond of flowers the series of practical articles on floriculture are of great interest, and the suggestions offered are so sensible and simple as to be readily understood by everyone who has the inclination, but not the knowledge to indulge in gardening. The music this month is of a very high order. Ev'ry Month, New York; 10 cents.

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Appleton's Popular Science Monthly for May is an exceedingly interesting and useful number. The editor discusses the important subjects of the "Kindergartenised" child, and "Is Freedom Limited by Climate?" The biographical section has for its subject, "William Pengelly," whose name is so closely connected with the exploration of caves in England, containing relics of men and the remains of extinct animals. It is an instructive study of a man who, in spite of many difficulties, worked himself up to the highest position as a man of science, and, at the same time, preserved a simple religious faith. There is besides a great variety of articles on scientific subjects, "liquid air" and its application to practical purposes, not being forgotten. The book reviews and fragments of science are of course up to date.

New South Wales, with 1,360,000 people, has now obtained a commanding lead over her old rival, Victoria, with a million and a quarter. New Zealand with 738,000, is a bad third, and Queensland comes fourth with 499,000. South Australia with 360,000 making but slow headway, a remark which applies equally to Tasmania with 171,000. West Australia, with 167,000, shows a slight actual decrease on the year's figures. Looking back over the period of seven years, which takes us back to the collapse of the great Melbourne boom, we find that since then Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania have remained non-progressive—the first actually, the two others relatively. On the other hand Queensland and New South Wales have continued to move forward. New Zealand has made very fair progress, and West Australia's advance has been remarkable.

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The final meeting of the joint committee in charge of the Free and U. P. Union negotiations has been held. The two principal points under consideration were the question of Government grants to training colleges, and the recommendation as to future action to be made to the Assembly and Synod. In regard to grants, the committee found that, as at home and in the mission field the grants in aid given to both churches were towards the promotion of purely secular education, and in view of the large amount of agreement elicited, the differences of opinion which have existed and are still adhered to in both churches are not such as call for action prior to union. With respect to future action, the committee decided to report that as the time for adjustment of details had proved too short, and in order to ensure that the form of the Uniting Act should be as far as possible perfect, the Free Church Assembly should this year send down to the Presbyteries an overture legally sanctioning the plan agreed upon by both churches up to the present, but to reserve to the Assembly of 1900 the duty of finally dealing with the matter of union. On the side of the United Presbyterian Church, the proposals are to be sent down to the Presbyteries and sessions, with a similar provision for decisive action on the part of the Synod of 1900.

In our article on the recent convocation at Queen's the present revenue of the college, by a typographical error, was placed at \$1,300, instead of \$13,000.

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Rev. Dr. Armstrong Black, of Birkenhead, Eng., who has received the unanimous call of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, has written to Mr. Justice MacLennan, and, judging by the tenor of his letter, he seems inclined to accept the pastorate.

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Referring to the early removal of Dr. Bruce from St. John to enter on the educational work he has undertaken in Toronto, as principal of the new residential school for boys, the Presbyterian Witness remarks: "It is not too soon to say that as a member of the Maritime Synod Dr. Bruce has been very highly esteemed. He has done hard and very successful work in St. John, and he will leave his present field and 'go west,' followed by the respect and affectionate regard of very many friends."

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So far, writes the Scottish correspondent of the London Presbyterian, only two names have been mentioned as likely successors to the late Rev. Dr. A. K. H. Boyd, of St. Andrew's. These are the Rev. Dr. Tulloch, of Maxwell Parish Church, Glasgow (son of the late Principal Tulloch) and the Rev. H. M. B. Reid, B.D., of Balmaghie, Kirkcudbrightshire. Between these two probable successors to Dr. Boyd, there is this striking resemblance that they have both literary leanings. Dr. Tulloch has published no serious religious volume, and, perhaps, the best literary work he ever accomplished was written under the heading, "Tangled Talk" in a Glasgow weekly literary paper. Mr. Reid's life for the past decade or so has been cast in one of the remoter and most scattered parishes in Scotland, although his living is not by any means an insignificant one, and he has never lost touch with the centres of literary and religious activity. He has published several works of a religious, biographical and ecclesiastical nature. In temperament, geniality, and literary tastes Mr. Reid, like Mr. Tulloch, has certain resemblances to Dr. Boyd. Either if appointed would no doubt worthily fill the unique vacancy.