

Ecclesiastical News.

THE EARL OF GALLOWAY will be Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner at the ensuing General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland which meets on the 24th instant. It is understood that Rev. Dr. Phin will be the Moderator, and that the Rev. Dr. Gould will be Moderator of the Free Church. The United Presbyterian Synod meets in the John St. U. P. Church Glasgow, on the 5th May.

The Presbyterian Church of the United States meets at Chicago on the third Thursday of May, the 17th instant.

As the time approaches for the assembling of the PAN-PRESBYTERIAN COUNCIL in Edinburgh, the public interest in its success increases on both sides of the Atlantic. From outside, there will be the inducement afforded by reduced rates of travel: on the other side, nothing will be left undone by the good people of Edinburgh to secure the comfort of the delegates who shall come from all parts of the world. As to the Council itself, it is sure to afford material for a grand chapter in the history of Presbyterianism. Those who are indulging the idea that it will be a suitable arena for discussing the revision or the modification of creeds and confessions, will probably be disappointed. It is more likely that attention will be chiefly directed to those points on which Presbyterians, the world over, are most nearly agreed. The provisional programme that has already been sketched contemplates an eight days' Session. The public reception of delegates will take place on the evening of Monday, the 2nd July, and the opening Sermon will be preached by Professor Flint, on the forenoon of the following day.

The United Presbyterian Presbytery of Paisley and Greenock, while recognizing the competency of a motion for the revision of the Standards, have felt themselves constrained "to record their deep regret and pain at the many unguarded utterances of Mr. McRae in support of his overture in which he appears to charge with hypocrisy and dishonesty the profession of public teaching of his Church, as well as the terms in which he characterizes the general sense of the Confession." At the same time, they deem it sufficient, meanwhile, to admonish their brother "to study more closely both the Scripture and the Confession, and to refrain in future from using language calculated to reflect injuriously on the honour of brethren, or to subvert the design of the Standards. Dr. Walter C. Smith, of Edinburgh, speaking at a public meeting in Glasgow, said he did not intend to take part in the present agitation for a new Confession of faith: that important document had its faults, but he would leave it alone in the meantime, or at least would leave it in the hands of the "young gentlemen" who were taking it up. At the same time he expressed the hope that subscription to it on the part of the laity might not be made compulsory, as many

of the most active and useful men in the Church could not conscientiously accept office in consequence of subscription to everything contained in this elaborate symbol being required of them equally with candidates for the Ministry.

[One of the Churches now constituting the Presbyterian Church in Canada, prior to the Union, so far met the difficulty complained of by Dr. Smith, in demanding from its Elders at ordination only a declaration of their adherence to the doctrine contained in the Shorter Catechism.]

If we are to believe all that appears in the public prints, "unrest" is too mild a word to describe the present state of religious feeling in Scotland. "The battle for the Standards" and "the Crusade against Establishments," are revolutionary terms, and Professor Flint sees even worse troubles than these impending—"storm and conflict are looming in the distance," he says, "The armies of faith and the armies of unbelief, the forces of God and the forces of evil, are converging towards Armageddon. The struggle into which the Church is entering is one as to the very foundations of its faith. 'Is there a God? is there a revealed Word of God? has any Saviour ever been sent into the world?' These are the questions which the world would soon be putting to the Church with an openness of which they had as yet no experience in this country."

The proposal to appoint Professor Christlieb to a Theological Chair in the English Presbyterian College, has given rise to a good deal of excited correspondence, in the middle of which the eminent German has requested his name to be withdrawn, and the eyes of the leaders of the Church are now directed towards Dr. J. Oswald Dykes, of London, as the coming man.

An old Ecclesiastical controversy has been revived among the Episcopalians in Scotland, by the appointment of Bishop Beckles, formerly of Sierra Leone, and now Vicar of St. Peter's, Bethnal Green, London, to fill the office of Bishop of the English Episcopalians in Scotland. Various attempts have been made to secure an amalgamation of the English and Scotch Episcopal bodies, but hitherto without effect. Their differences in doctrine and practice appear to be irreconcilable, and this act on the part of the English party seems like the abandonment of all hope of reconciliation. It is questioned by many whether the movement is a wise one. At best the Episcopalians of Scotland are not a strong body.

The Presbyterian Council.

THE following are the Delegates appointed to represent the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Owing to the meeting of our General Assembly in the middle of June, it may be impossible for some of these to go to Edinburgh, hence the list may yet be changed somewhat:—Rev Dr.