

The Monthly Record.

JULY, 1876.

THE ASSEMBLIES.

Since our last issue, the Supreme Courts of the Churches, both in the British Isles, and Dominion, have been in session. The meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, has been held in Toronto, at which a goodly number was present, and the proceedings are now a chapter of history. Dr. Cooke, the retiring Moderator preached a discourse which has been variously commented upon, all his critics, however, being agreed that it was "able and timely."

Dr. Topp was elected Moderator for the ensuing year. Congratulatory messages were received from several of the sister Churches, Presbyterian and Episcopalian, near at hand and far away, referring to the Union of the Presbyterian Churches in the Dominion. The mother Church congratulations are conspicuous by their absence, but mothers feel kindly to their children even when they do not parade their affection, or perhaps it might have been significant, and that the unfriendly discussions in the F. C. Assembly, renewing the "Disruption testimony," and in the United Synod, giving a fresh airing to their ill-concealed wish for the speedy disestablishing and disendowing of her, many have something to do with it!

In addition to much necessary routine business, other very important matters received the attention of the Assembly. The *organ question*, after a spicy discussion, has been virtually settled in the meantime, by being left to congregations. It is refreshing to observe the rapid growth in the Church, of charita-

ble toleration in non-essentials. Not many years ago a discussion on instrumental music in Churches, would have roused sleepy lions, and resulted differently. We hope we may hail the change as an indication that the Presbyterian Church in Canada considers the time that is past, more than sufficient for wasting energy, and engendering bitterness in "tithing mint, cummin and anise" to the exclusion and neglect of the weightier matters of the law and gospel. —It is high time that the Christians who cannot see eye to eye, should agree to differ on points that are not of vital importance, and cease those petty persecutions of each other, that are alike alien to "brotherly love," and unworthy of those who acknowledge the same faith and baptism, and look forward to the same happy home.

The McDonnell case, *the case* of the season, and which occupied several days, is still undecided. Judging from the reports of the discussion, the matter seems to have been dealt with, on the whole, in a friendly, Christian spirit; amendments manifold followed the motion made to dispose of the case. It was at last shelved for a year by the following motion by Principal McVicar, "sustain the reference for judgment; find that in the statements made before this Assembly, Mr. McDonnell has declared that he does not hold the doctrine of everlasting punishment in the sense held by this Church and formulated in the confession of faith; nevertheless that he has adopted no doctrinal views contrary to the confession of faith; therefore Resolved 1st, that the above twofold statement is not satisfactory to this Assembly. 2ndly, that a committee be appointed to confer with Mr. McDonnell in the hope that they may be able to bring in a report satisfactory to this Assembly." 263 voted for the motion, and 101 against. Dr. Cooke, Principal Snodgrass, Prof. McKerras, Mowatt,