

popular oratory,—is adopted by the Synod without a word of pleading; the proposer feeling that a speech on such a theme would be an impertinent infliction. The clear ground, also, which the members of the United Synod occupy on the Voluntary question, saves a world of debate. No time, for example, is spent in determining whether public grants of money, offered for the teaching of religion, be obtainable, in consistency with certain theoretical notions as to what a state church should be, and certain alleged state church rights to which their own denomination is supposed to have a peculiar claim. In this way, many subjects of public and popular interest, even should they find their way into the Synod's Roll of Causes, draw forth no speeches from the members: and from this circumstance, as well as from the fact that private causes seldom possess much general interest, or are, by consent of parties, adjudicated upon by select committees, and only the result reported on in open court, it follows that the newspaper accounts of the Synod's proceedings differ considerably from the reports they have to publish concerning the meetings of some other ecclesiastical assemblies.

The only considerable exceptions to the rule against making speeches, were, as usual, on occasion of the public anniversary meeting to receive the report of the Board of Missions, on Wednesday evening, and on receiving the deputies from foreign churches on the evening following. The missionary meeting, held in the Music Hall, was an imposing and animating scene. The assembled thousands, who filled every corner of the house, listened with deep attention to the intelligence communicated in the report itself, and in the statements of some of the speakers; and responded warmly to the appeals addressed to them in behalf of the various fields of the church's missionary enterprise. Not only did the large assembly continue together in undiminished number for several hours, during which the meeting lasted, but the interest they manifested was unbroken till the end—as enthusiastic during the concluding address as at any previous time. The deputies from foreign churches were received on Thursday evening with the customary warmth of welcome. Their faces are not now strange to the

United Presbyterian Church, for they have appeared among us before on the same errand of fraternal regard; but the knowledge obtained, through former visits, of their own personal worth and eminent gifts, as well as of the history and character of the churches they represent, only served to prepare for them a yet more cordial welcome from the ministers and elders of the United Presbyterian Church; and this renewal of intercourse with them has, we are sure, still further increased the affection and esteem in which they are held among us.

If we were asked to specify one mark by which, more than by any other, this meeting of Synod will hereafter be remembered, we would say, by its spirit of enlightened liberality in monetary matters. The raising of the allowance to professors of divinity has wiped away a reproach, by which many of the best friends of the United Church have long felt humbled in the presence of Christian brethren belonging to other denominations. Nothing, indeed, has in this case been done, by which the Synod runs much hazard of losing that character for frugality and caution, which has gained for it the confidence of the Christian people, both within and beyond its own pale; and there is still room for a prudent bounty, in increasing the remuneration by which the church acknowledges the services of her justly esteemed professors. It is well, however, to see progress in the right direction, and therein we rejoice. But far more important, as an evidence of the same spirit, is the Synod's decision respecting the better support of the Christian ministry. The sum of £120 annually has been fixed upon as the minimum stipend of ministers in the United Presbyterian Church. Means are to be taken, by which churches not already paying that amount, though able to pay it, may be induced to raise their minister's income to the sum proposed; and an organization has been instituted, with the view of aiding, to the requisite extent, such congregations as are unable of themselves to reach the minimum. This point in the Synod's arrangements has been reached slowly, and, after long travelling in the matter; we would fain believe that, on this account, it has been reached more securely. Let the earnest-minded mem-