

of Slavery. Having given a brief historical statement of the preceding events, he thus expresses his opinion as to the course of the Society at its late meeting at New York.

"In the gratifying result which has been reached, and for which we give thanks to God, no judgment on Slavery itself is implied. If there had been, no one would have more ardently deplored it than ourself. The question was not: Is slavery compatible, or not, with the Gospel; nor: Is it the duty of Christians to oppose it as a great moral evil? But: Is it the duty of the Tract Society, *as such*, to treat the subject of slavery in its publications, at the risk of dismembering a Society, which is, in the hand of God, one of the most powerful and blessed instruments for the propagation of the Gospel in the wide extent of the United States, and consequently, one of the surest means also, though indirect, of promoting the abolition of slavery? This question we do not hesitate to answer as the Committee have done: just as we would oppose the publication by the Paris Religious Tract Society, of controversial tracts against the Romish Church, though no one will suspect us of the least favorable tendency to that Church. As an individual, and under our own responsibility, we preserve full and entire liberty; but as a member of the Committee of the Paris Tract Society, our duty is to abstain. So in the case of the American Tract Society. Among the numerous and distinguished Christians who voted with the majority, are many who yield to none in their opposition to slavery, who show it, and will still show it; only they are persuaded with us, that in view of the circumstances, the duty of the Tract Society, *as such*, is to abstain from this exciting topic. We may sigh over it, we do sigh over it; our conviction of the evil is not less positive nor firm. The subscriber having lately seen things with his eyes, and heard with ears, as well in the South as in the North, his conviction deserves perhaps some consideration.—There is then in this decision of the Tract Society nothing which can justly be taxed with perfidy, pusillanimity, nor which ought to draw upon the Committee the least blame. Two opposite opinions, equally distinct, equally conscientious existed; a very large majority gave, after long and earnest debate, their approbation to the course pursued by the Committee; no one believes that all the faith, all the fear of God, all the opposition to slavery were confined to the ranks of the small minority, who opposed the resolution taken, and whose opinion we respect without adopting it. We pray God to continue to bless, as he has done hitherto, the extensive and evangelical labors of the American Tract Society, and we render thanks to Him, for having delivered it from the serious danger with which it was threatened."

We respect Dr. Monod very highly for his piety, and zeal, and christian worth, and cannot but regret to find that he has been led to form what we believe to be an incorrect opinion on the subject in question. According to Dr. Monod the question was: "Is it the duty of the Tract Society, *as such*, to treat the subject of slavery in its publications at the risk of dismembering the Society." Now we apprehend that the course of the Committee, in not touching the crying evils, not to say, the sin of Slavery, will not avoid the risk of dismemberment. We believe that many will withdraw their confidence, and co-operation with the Society. Indeed in the very same paper from which we take Dr. Monod's expression of opinion, we find a Programme of Operations

published by the American Tract Society of Boston, which has been led to alter its relations to the New York Society by diversity of views on questions connected with Slavery. In an address issued by the Boston Society, it is stated that the Executive Committee are prepared to issue such publications as may appear to them adapted to promote "the moral and religious interests of men, upon the subject of slavery, as well as upon any other subject connected with the public morals and the evangelization of the land.

"The committee, therefore, invite from able, earnest and discreet men, in every part of the country, such productions of their own, and such selections from the writings of others upon this and other topics proper to be treated by this Society, as shall enable us fully and promptly to carry out its plans, and to meet the pressing wants of the age."

Other Societies and Associations will, we doubt not, adopt a similar course, or perhaps a course still more decided with reference to this matter. And although there may be difficulties on both sides, we believe the safest course would have been to come out from a position of neutrality and borne faithful testimony to the evils of slavery, the great blot on the scutcheon of the United States.

DEPUTATION FROM IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

At the recent meeting of the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church, it was resolved to send a deputation to the North American Provinces, to visit the Churches, with the view of collecting information, and promoting a feeling of confidence and unity between the churches in the mother country and in the colonies. The members of this deputation, the Rev. W. McClure of Londonderry, and the Rev. Professor Gibson of Belfast, are now in the country, and have been visiting a number of congregations and stations in both sections of the Province. They have been everywhere warmly received, and we have no doubt their visit will be of great service, in encouraging and stimulating many in this land, and in deepening the interest felt by the Church in Ireland in the maintenance and extension of Presbyterianism in the Colonies. The Church in Ireland has already done much for the cause in this continent. It would not be too much to say that it is mainly owing to Irish Presbyterians that the Presbyterian Church was founded in America; and it is well known that not a few of the ablest and most powerful defenders of Presbyterianism have been the sons of Ireland. Even in our own Province, Presbyterianism owes a very large debt indeed to the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and we trust to see the bands of brotherhood drawn still closer between the two churches. Many of our readers will be aware that the Rev. W. McClure has been, for many years, Secretary to the Colonial Mission Board

of the Irish Presbyterian Church. In that capacity he has been instrumental in doing much for our assistance and we don't not that a personal inspection of a portion of our mission ground will increase his own interest, and that of the Board too, in our work here, and that we shall, in consequence, receive many valuable accessions to our ranks from Ireland.

It is to be regretted that the time of the disputes will not allow of their remaining long in the Province, and visiting more of our congregations and stations. We trust that one or both may yet be able to spend a little more time in the Province, and visit localities which have not as yet been reached. If this could be done, many hearts would be warmed and refreshed, and an impulse given to the missionary work in stations where there may have been previously disappointment and discouragement.

Editorial Items.

INDUCTIONS, CALLS, &c.

OWEN SOUND.—The Rev. Mr. Grant, has been ordained, and inducted as Pastor of the new congregation at Owen Sound.

WESTON.—The Rev. D. B. Pearce, has received a cordial and unanimous call from the congregation at Weston.

WEST GWILLIMBURY.—The congregation at West Gwillimbury and Bradford have resolved to give a call to the Rev. J. Cameron.

MINUTES.—Parcels of Minutes have been sent to all Ministers, and to vacant congregations, so far as known. If any have not received the parcels, they will please communicate with the Synod Clerk.

UNION COMMITTEE.—We direct attention to the Minutes of the Committee on Union, which will be found in another column.

KNOX'S CHURCH, TORONTO.—The induction of the Rev. Mr. Topp, is appointed to take place on the 10th inst.

WEST PUSLINCH.—The young people attending the Sabbath School at West Puslinch have lately presented their Pastor, the Rev. Andrew McLean, with a handsome and valuable Book Case. This appropriate gift was accompanied by an Address, expressive of attachment on the part felt by the young to their Pastor. We regret that our limited space will not allow of our inserting this Address, which was drawn up by the young people themselves.

OPENING OF COLLEGE.—We direct the attention of Ministers and Elders to the notices given in regard to the opening of the College, and the meeting of several important meetings of Committee. As on last occasion, refreshments will be provided in the College for members of Committee present, at 3 o'clock, P. M.