

## UNITED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD OF AUSTRALIA.

This Synod met on the 9th Decémbér.

The Rev. Jchn Cooper, the Moderator, stated that a new Basis of union among the Presbyterians of the colony would be brought under the consideration of the Synod. This Basis he would now read. Having done so, he called upon the members of Synod to express their opinions severally thereon.

The Rev. James Ballantyne expressed his approval of the new Basis, and remarked that its simplicity, comprehensiveness, and definiteness, left nothing to be desired. He rejoiced in the prospect which might now be reasonably entertained of the speedy consummation of the union.

The Rev. Wm. Jarrett, the Rev. John Ballantyne, the Moderator, and the elders present, expressed a similar opinion. It was thought that a few verbal alterations might probably be necessary, but these would in no wise interfere with the principle of the union.

After deliberation, it was unanimously agreed—"That this Synod expresses its satisfaction with the articles of the Basis of the union generally, and agrees to remit the same to the sessions and congregations under their care for consideration. And further that this Synod agrees to meet on the first Tuesday of February 1859, to hear the reports of the congregations, and take final action thereon."

The Synod thereafter proceeded to the consideration of some other business.

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## Gleanings.

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## THE LONDON CITY MISSION.

This important society, founded twenty-four years ago by David Nasmith, a poor Scotchman, has now 350 missionaries, who last year paid 1,618,277 visits, and distributed 4,879 copies of the Scriptures and 2,352,544 tracts; they held 30,836 in-door meetings and Bible classes, and 4,156 open-air services. As the result of their labors, 792 converts united with the church, 176 backsliders were restored to church-fellowship, 447 families commenced family worship, 140 shops were closed on the Sabbath, 741 drunkards were reclaimed, 12,067 were induced to attend ragged, common, or Sabbath-schools, 555 females were rescued from vice, and 3,078 adults were induced to attend public worship. They found 16,980 families without the Scriptures.

## THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY FULL EMPLOYMENT.

"He who does these two things, preaching and praying, with their necessary adjuncts, faithfully and fully, both in public and in private, will have no need of additional employment. None of us, without presumption, can expect to do more than was done by the apostles. And if they could not combine the tasks of serving tables and of preaching Christ; if they devolved the blessed work of charity on others, that they might be wholly given to their spiritual labors; we have small encouragement to hope that our versatility and busy zeal will ever solve the problem which to them remained insoluble; the problem, old but ever new, of doing everything at once, which is continually tempting the ambition and the vanity of christians and of christian ministers, and under the delusive hope of doing more for God, and for the church, and for the souls of men, too often leaving them to the disgrace of doing little, or the guilt of doing nothing. From a prospect so discouraging the best relief is that afforded by the language and the conduct of the Twelve, on the occasion so repeatedly referred to (Acts vi. 4). The example there held forth is admirably suited both to kindle hope and regulate exertion. On the one hand, the great business of the ministry is here presented; on the other, it is shown to be sufficient to engross their highest powers and their best affections, and to occupy their whole time till the end of life. Let this then be their principle, their maxim, and their watchword. Let them be prepared to say, without a murmur or misgiving, if others can combine this work with secular employments, or with intellectual and literary labor not directly bearing on it, let