

man episcopally ordained. In other instances, permission has been refused to allow the word "Rév." to be inserted on the tombstone, when it was prefixed to the name of a Non-conformist minister.

Various methods have been adopted to do away with such offensive proceedings. Recently, a bill was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Osborne Morgan, which was the occasion of a lively debate. The bill was strongly opposed by Mr. Disraeli and his cabinet. The arguments against the bill have been pronounced to be weak, and the speeches very poor; whilst in favour of it, speeches full of sound argument and telling power were made. The Right Hon. John Bright's speech was especially trenchant; some say, it was one of the best he ever made. Among other remarkable utterances, he said, "The time will come when no one will believe that such a bill was discussed in the House of Commons."

Notwithstanding all that could be said in favour of Dissenters being allowed to bury their dead in accordance with their own wishes, in the burial grounds of the nation—for such the church-yards are—the bill was defeated; and thus the reasonable requisitions of an immense number of people must still be ignored, to meet the intolerant views of those who claim to be considered as belonging to the Church established by law. Surely such an anomaly cannot much longer exist in free England.

PAN-PRESBYTERIANISM.

FOR some years past Dr. Mc Cosh has been arguing strongly in favour of this confederation, and he has so far succeeded as to have several committee meetings, with a view to make the final arrangements. Various other preliminary matters have been adjusted; and soon a Conference will be held in London, which will determine the time and place for holding the anticipated Ecumenical Council, designed to embrace all the Presbyterian Churches in the world.

In the meantime, like others, we have been somewhat curious to know the probable strength of our Presbyterian friends, and from what we can gather, the following is the most complete approximation to the status of the body that we can secure:—

In America there are fourteen Churches and 1,087,684 communicants. In Europe and Australia there are sixteen Churches and 6,410,131 communicants, making in all, thirty Churches and 7,497,815 communicants; so that should the Council take place, it can readily be seen how powerful such an organization will be.

Should it be successful, no doubt other Councils of a similar kind will soon follow. The Archbishop of Canterbury proposes to have such a Council in 1877, with a view, no doubt, if possible, to harmonize the conflicting parties that are known to exist in the Episcopal Church. A formidable task, as all persons can readily understand.

We anticipate, also, that we shall soon witness a Methodist Ecumenical Council. Several of our editors have been discussing the feasibility of such a gathering, and unless we are much mistaken, fewer difficulties will be found in the way of such a gathering than will be encountered in both the former.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

THE name of this distinguished nobleman is well known to all our readers. Few persons in any position of life have laboured so long and so ardently on behalf of every movement that affects the happiness of our race. He is always ready, both by his platform efforts and the aid of his purse, to assist in the benevolent enterprises of the day. During the Anniversary month he presides at more meetings in London than any other gentleman.

Lord Shaftesbury is President of the Costermongers' Society, the design of which is to assist those persons in the time of sickness and death. A small fee is contributed