

converts, both Jews and Greeks. He thought that if our mightiest polemics and Cyparæuses of debate were going out to India, and seeing the mischief our divisions caused there, they would come back meek and gentle as lambs. Another great cause of the little progress of foreign missions was to be found in the very inadequate apprehension of the magnitude of the work and its importance on the part of the ministers and office-bearers of the Church. The very object for which the Church existed was to carry the Gospel to all the world; and if they put that last and least which, in the mind of the Great Jehovah, was first and chiefest, what could they expect but discomfiture and dismay in all their efforts? Dr. Duff concluded an earnest and impressive address of more than two hours' duration by exhorting the Church to special prayer on behalf of mission work, for he feared that their prayers, public and private, little resembled the Lord's prayer in this respect, that its first three petitions were for the spread of the Gospel over all the world.

The Presbyterian Assemblies.

The Assemblies of the two great branches of the Presbyterian Church in the United States met in New York about the middle of May. The grand subject of discussion was the union of the two churches—the 'Old School' and the 'New School.' The following basis of re-union was adopted unanimously by the New School Assembly and with only nine dissentients in the Old School Assembly:

Believing that the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom would be promoted by the healing of our divisions, and that the two bodies bearing the same name, having the same constitution, and each recognizing the other as a sound and orthodox body, according to the principles of the confession common to both, cannot be justified by any but the most imperative reasons in maintaining separate, and, in some respects rival organizations; we are now clearly of the opinion that the reunion of those bodies ought, as soon as the necessary steps can be taken, to be accomplished upon the basis hereinafter set forth.

1. The Presbyterian Churches in the United States of America, namely: that those whose General Assembly convened in the Brick Church, in the city of New York, on the 20th day of May, 1869, and that whose general Assembly met in the Church of the Covenant, in the said city, on the same day, shall be reunited as one Church, under the name and style of the Presbyterian Church in the United States

of America, possessing all the legal and corporate rights and powers pertaining to the church previous to the division in 1838, and all the legal and corporate rights and powers which the separate churches now possess.

2. The reunion shall be effected on the doctrinal and ecclesiastical basis of our common standards; the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments shall be acknowledged to be the inspired word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice; the confession of faith shall continue to be sincerely received and adopted, as containing the system of doctrine taught in Holy Scripture; and the government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in the United States shall be approved as containing the principles and rules of our polity.

3. Each of said assemblies shall submit the foregoing basis to its Presbyteries, which shall be required to meet on or before the 15th day of October, 1869, to express their approval or disapproval of the same, by a categorical answer to the following questions:

Do you approve of the reunion of the two bodies now claiming the name and rights of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, on the following basis, namely: "The reunion shall be effected on the doctrinal and ecclesiastical basis of our common standards; the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments shall be acknowledged to be the inspired word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice, the Confession of faith shall continue to be sincerely revered and adopted as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; and the Government and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church in the United States shall be approved as containing the principles and rule of our polity?"

Each Presbytery shall, before the first day of November, 1869, forward to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly with which it is connected a statement of its vote on the said basis of reunion.

4. The said General Assemblies now sitting shall, after finishing their business, adjourn, to meet in the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., on the second Wednesday of November, 1869, at 11 o'clock, A. M. If the two General Assemblies shall then find and declare that the above named basis of reunion has been approved by two-thirds of the Presbyteries connected with each branch of the church, then the same shall be of binding force, and the two Assemblies shall take action accordingly.

5. The said General Assemblies shall then and there make provisions for the meeting of the General Assembly of the united church on the third Thursday of May, 1870. The Moderators of the two