

Committee having been under the necessity of trenching upon the reserve fund for several years past. It is to be hoped that the Church, contrasting its utility with its performances, will rouse itself at once to a sense of its requirements and its duties.

Not fewer than three cases arising out of the peculiar character of Lord Aberdeen's bill were this year before the Assembly. In every case the presentee was ordered to be inducted. Of course, while the law remains as it is, no fault could be found with the Assembly—but we quite agree with the opinion expressed by the Duke of Argyll, that patronage even in its present very modified form will be an ever recurring difficulty; and though it is not likely that purely popular election would secure better ministers, or ever prevent wrangling and contention, still it would remove an evil which has more than once threatened the integrity of the Church as an ecclesiastical fabric.

We observe that the great Union has been before the Assembly. They have agreed to recognise the ministers of the Church of Scotland in Australia who have joined the Union and to express the heartiest feelings for the prosperity of the United body. It is very evident however, that they are not well acquainted with the general feeling in British America among the adherents of our Church, with regard to this matter. We may be mistaken, but we do not think that either in Canada or the Lower Provinces is a Presbyterian family Union so near at hand as to be within the compass of a few years. The subject will no doubt be before our own Synod, as the late Moderator had a document forwarded to him, inviting the Church of Scotland in Nova Scotia to make common cause with the now United Presbyterian body, and join in a bond of Union, upon the basis which they have already adopted. This letter bears the official signature of the Moderator of that Church, and we have no doubt will be considered and answered with the respect and courtesy due to so large and influential a body as the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces.

In secular matters there are some items of interest and importance. The struggle in the United States after a period of six months, can scarcely be said to have begun, and while it is inflicting immense evil and loss upon both, we can scarcely say contending parties, as well as the commercial world at large, there cannot be a doubt that every day is making it clear, that the North and South can never be again re-united. A causelessly bitter spirit against Great Britain seems to be growing in the North, and violent narangues, we can give them no better name, have been delivered in Paris, at the expense of the Mother

Country, by various American Ambassadors to the European courts. This will not serve very materially the cause they advocate so warmly.

The Great Eastern has been commissioned by the English Government to carry out about 3000 troops to Canada.

We have to chronicle the total loss of another Atlantic steamer, the Canadian, of the Montreal line. This is the fourth vessel which has been lost by this unfortunate Company. She had about 200 souls on board of whom about 30 went down and perished with the ship. She struck a pan of ice in the Straits of Belle Isle and sank in 30 minutes. We see it stated in the House of Commons, that the Cunard Co. in 21 years have never been fined and have never asked once for indulgence from the Government, and during all that long period have lost only one steamer, the Columbia, and not a single life. Such a thing we believe is almost without a parallel in the history of steam navigation.

Gold continues to be found in Tangier in sufficient quantities to be drawing accessions of adventurers to the diggings. We have not yet heard however of any valuable nuggets having been found.

Peace has been concluded in New Zealand by the unconditional surrender of the natives.

A great slave depot on the western coast of Africa has been bombarded by a British fleet and 700 of the natives are reported to have been slain.

The Syrian question is said to have been definitely settled by the appointment of a Christian Governor to the Lebanon, under the control of the Porte, but with the protection of the great European powers. It is to be hoped that this plan may bring about the desired results and obtain for Turkey a little longer respite.

Count Cavour, by far the greatest man in the history of the Italian struggle for unity, is dead. The event as might be expected, has produced a profound sensation throughout the whole of Europe. Time will determine whether Sardinia possesses another man equal to the situation, or whether the great leader and statesman being gone, Piedmont will possess the courage or the ability to carry out the programme, whose object is to open Italy and one Italian sovereign with Rome for a capital and the Pope as a simple priest.

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