

Assembly. We refer to them on another page. The Free Church Assembly is the most popular religious gathering in Scotland. Its vast hall is generally filled, and the public take a warm interest in the speeches, the deliberations, and the decisions which there take place. The Established Church Assembly takes the world very easily. The principal feature of its late meeting was an attempt to check the increasing rage for organs and innovations. The attempt will no doubt prove futile. The Presbyterians of Ireland, and of the continent, hold their meetings later in the season. We believe however, that in all parts of the world, the past year has with Presbyterians been a year of progress. Their union movements, their efforts in the field of missions at home and abroad, and their educational and evangelical enterprises generally have been much blessed.

THE DAYSPRING.

From the *South Australian Advertiser* of the 27th March, we learn several interesting particulars of the recent visit of the mission vessel *Dayspring* to Adelaide. 1200 children visited her in one day. For several days hundreds of people continued to visit the vessel and inspect the curiosities on exhibition, among which we see mentioned photographs of natives, by Captain Fraser. There were six natives on board—one from Fate, and three from Aneiteum, one from Amrim, and three from Mare. The visitors were gratified by hearing these men read the New Testament in their own tongue, and also sing christian hymns to well known English tunes.

The *Dayspring* had arrived at Sydney on the 22nd December last, having on board Mr. and Mrs. Copeland, and Mrs. Ella and two daughters, and the daughter of Mr. Jones, of Mare. Nineteen bales of cotton were brought in from Aneiteum, to be forwarded to Manchester. The quality is exceedingly good. We believe that the *Dayspring* is now manned chiefly by natives of the New Hebrides. It is probable that before the end of June she had re-visited with supplies and with home tidings all the mission stations on the New Hebrides.

PROSPECT OF UNION.

The utmost cordiality prevails between the leading minds of the Free and the United Presbyterian Churches. Dr. Robert BUCHANAN in reporting to the Assembly as Convener of the Free Church Committee showed how "division is of the devil!"—how state interference has directly or indirectly led to all the divisions in Scotland, and how God designed that the separations of the past should lead to a higher and purer unity in the future.

"Union is of God. No division in God's Church can be justified but that which is caused and necessitated by a regard to union—the union that is with Christ himself, and with all who are prepared fully and truly to follow Him. If the alternative be either to separate from a particular Church, or to separate from Christ, I have no choice. To separate becomes in such a case a paramount duty. But I separate for the sake of union. It is around Christ, who is himself the centre of unity, that His Church and people must gather, if they would really be one. When therefore, by such events as I have briefly glanced at, in the past ecclesiastical history of Scotland, God has been permitting the Church of our fathers to be rent in pieces, let us be sure it has been with a view to a higher, purer, and more lasting unity—to a unity which by bringing us closer to Himself in the fuller knowledge of His mind and will, and in the more abundant possession of His Holy Spirit, will bring us closer to one another."

The grand question now is—

"In bringing us into this state of separation from the State, did God mean us to continue in separation from one another? My own growing and strong conviction is—that which I have already hinted at—that these separations have been not merely permitted, but were required, in order to a union that shall be more enduring and more glorious,—a union more enduring, because more free from discordant elements,—a union more glorious, because based on principles that will recognize and permit no authority but that of Christ Himself, and no law but His most blessed word. To my mind, the events of past history, and the whole present course and tendency of things, both in the political and ecclesiastical world, appear to indicate with increasing clearness that in the direction now pointed at our path of duty will be found to lie. I of course reserve, like every one else, my ultimate decision on this question till all the materials for finally and conclusively forming it shall be full.