

of this fruit, cut up the pulp into a vessel, add sugar and cream, then shut your eyes and eat Nova Scotia strawberries.

#### BANANAS

Grow on a soft plant not unlike the rhubarb plant, though of course ten times the size of rhubarb. One plant will produce but one bunch of bananas, and requires eleven months to do so. The old stem is cut down so soon as the fruit is removed, and in turn saplings from the root of the old stalk produce bananas in abundance.

#### YAM.

This vegetable grows from six inches to four feet in length, and will keep eleven months after it has been taken out of the ground. The yam looks like the root of a tree taken from any of our black mud swamps. In taste it is like our best potatoes, but in size is a trifle larger. Taro is much superior to potato. It is sometimes found twelve inches long, and has a top like rhubarb.

I have not mentioned nearly all the fruits and vegetables, but I may say a long good-bye. *Munti intris unyak.* My words are ended.

Yours in much haste,

W. A. ROBERTSON.

68 Granville Street.

## Religious Intelligence.

### PRESBYTERIAN ANNIVERSARIES.

#### Synod of the United Presbyterian Church.

This Synod met on the 9th May. Rev. P. McDowell was chosen Moderator. The church is in a healthy and progressive condition. The minimum stipend is now like that of the Free Church, £150, exclusive of manse or rent. £14,000 have been raised for manse; and soon there will be a manse for every minister of the church. The question of Union with the Free Church was discussed with pre-eminent candour, prudence and ability. Dr. Cairns was equal to his great reputation. His speeches are always full of sound sense and deep philosophy, expressed eloquently and fervently. The Synod agreed to send the Union Report down to Presbyteries with

the question whether Union can now be effected on the basis of the standards. A proposal for revising the Confession and Catechisms, by striking out passages that appeared to give undue power to the Civil Magistrate, was lost by a large majority.

The visit of Mr. Spurgeon to the Synod excited universal interest, and the demand for tickets to the breakfast and the missionary meeting was extraordinary. Hundreds in town and country failed to obtain admission, although the committee did everything in their power to accommodate friends and strangers. At the breakfast-meeting the Rev. Dr. Wilson, Bombay, conducted the devotional exercises; Sir Henry Moncreiff also took part in the proceedings. We need not speak of the power of Mr. Spurgeon as a speaker, and the great work he is doing as a minister of Christ; for who knows not of these? At the close of his address at the breakfast he made reference to a paper that has been distributed among the members of the Free Church Assembly, purporting to set forth his views on the Union question. He admitted that the words printed were his, but were never meant to be applied to the Union of the negotiating Churches. We have not seen the paper referred to, and therefore cannot speak of it; but Mr. Spurgeon left no one in any doubts as to the opinion he holds. Our space prevents us giving in full his articulate and manly utterances. We can quote only a sentence or two. "Even," said he, "with the aid of a powerful microscope, I can see no difference between the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church. I am a Southern, not versed in the minutiae of your statutes and rules, but, standing at that distance, I do not know the one from the other. Your standards, your worship, your preaching, are they not the same?..... Having said this much, I again apologize for intruding any opinions of mine upon a case which the shrewd sense and deep piety of Scotland will surely be able ere long to bring to a happy end."

The other matters that came before the Synod were of minor interest. A memorial from the Presbytery of Hamilton regarding the expenses of the Jamaica Mission, which it was supposed might be lessened, gave rise to an animated discussion. The subject was remitted to the Foreign Mission Board for special consideration; and the Board was requested to report to next meeting of Synod anything which may appear practicable for diminishing the home expenditure on the Jamaica Mission. A discussion on the Hymn-Book now in use—which has its excellences, and some defects urgently calling for amendment—led to the appointment of a committee to take the whole subject of the