

exercises were conducted by each of the four moderators. The Rev. Mr. Clow, the oldest Presbyterian Minister in the colony, was chosen Moderator. The Basis of Union, as given in our number for May, with slight verbal alterations, was read, and subscribed by all the Ministers. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was then observed by the Ministers and Elders present, the Rev. Dr. Cairns, formerly of Cupar, Fife, presiding. A public meeting was held in the evening, when a number of suitable addresses were delivered. Some Ministers, we believe, both of the

Free, and United Presbyterian Church, have declined joining. It must be confessed that a troublesome point presented itself—the acceptance of State pay. We understand it was arranged that nothing should be received by the Church in its corporate capacity, but that individual Congregations should be left at liberty to act for themselves in this matter. The united body is to be called the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The Synod includes 54 Ministers, viz., of the Scotch Kirk, 19, of the Free Church, 26, and of the U. P. Church, 9.

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## Gleanings.

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### SUPPORT OF AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

At the late meeting of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, the Rev. Dr. Vaughan moved:—"That this assembly, having, by the generous offer of £1000 by the Rev. J. A. James, of Birmingham, had its attention directed to the importance of forming a fund to enable aged ministers to retire when incapacitated for discharging the duties of the pastorate, is of opinion that immediate steps should be taken to raise a further sum of not less than £4000, to constitute the basis of such an institution, and directs that it be referred to the committee appointed at Halifax, to carry the object into effect, and to agree upon the necessary details."

He expressed his sense of shame and sorrow at the small stipends of many of the ministers, and the condition to which many of them were driven when they came to be old. He contended too, that the lamentation often uttered about the want of young men of superior position in life, and of first-rate education, in their colleges and pulpits, might be traced in a large measure to the inadequate support which Nonconformist ministers received. The Rev. Josiah Bull seconded the resolution. Mr. Smith explained that if something was not done by way of raising the £4000 before October next, Mr. James would devote his £1000 to some local object.

### BEGINNING OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF MISSIONS.

An interesting fact was related at the recent meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church O. S. at Indianapolis, by Mr. C. A. Spring of Illinois, a brother of Rev. Dr. Spring of New York, respecting the beginning of the work of Foreign Missions by the churches of this country. He stated that when he was a child, his father and Rev. Dr. Worcester were riding together through the woods of Dedham, Mass., and while talking of the condition of the perishing heathen, and of the command to preach the gospel to every creature, their hearts became so full that they felt constrained to stop and pray. Alighting from their carriage, they went into the deep forest, and beneath the shadow of an oak, poured out their hearts in prayer to God. They immediately felt a desire to go to work in the matter, and accordingly directed their course at once to Boston, gathered together a group of earnest Christian men, told them their feelings and talked and prayed with them. Before they left the city, the steps were taken which resulted in the formation of the American Board, Thus laying the foundation of that noble institution which God has employed to carry the gospel to so many of the dark portions of the earth.