

THE ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER. London: Hamilton, Adams & Co., and J. Nisbet & Co.

We always welcome the arrival of this periodical. We regard it as a model for publications of the same class. Its contents are varied and interesting. It contains a pretty large amount of ecclesiastical intelligence, and frequent communications with reference to China, where the Presbyterian Church in England has a mission. Its monthly provision for youthful readers we regard as a useful feature.

BIBLIOTHECA SACRA, AND AMERICAN BIBLE REPOSITORY. Andover: Draper & Brothers.

This Quarterly is the organ of the orthodoxy of New England, and is a periodical of more than ordinary merit. If its Theology is not quite so Calvinistic as might be wished, it is at least improved, and in regard to critical and hermeneutical power, it ranks very high. The April number contains several articles of great value. We would specially mention an able article on the Apocryphal Books of the Old Testament, from the pen of Dr. Beecher of Andover.

THE GOSPEL TRIBUNE, FOR ALLIANCE AND INTERCOMMUNION THROUGHOUT EVANGELICAL CHRISTENDOM. Toronto and Buffalo: Robert Dick.

We have just received the first number of this publication, and must regard it as auguring well for the success of the *Tribune*. Its contents are varied, and most of the articles which it contains are valuable. Its object is to promote a catholic spirit throughout the various bodies of Christians. The *Tribune* is handsomely got up, and contains a large amount of matter for the price at which it is published. We cordially wish the Publisher all success.

ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

This Synod commenced its sittings on Monday week. The Rev. Joseph Burns of Whitehaven was elected Moderator. The Rev. W. Chalmers of Marylebone, the retiring Moderator, was requested by the Synod to publish the excellent sermon which he had preached previous to the opening of the Synod.

The business of most general interest before Synod was the following:—

UNION AMONG ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIANS.

Dr. Hamilton moved the adoption of an overture calling upon the Synod to open up communications with orthodox Presbyterians, in order to ascertain if it was not possible, without any compromise of sound doctrine, to affect a union with them.

Mr. Anderson doubted if the United Presbyterian body were in a position to meet them on equal terms.

Dr. Hamilton contended that this overture did not pledge the Synod to any definite terms of union; all that they sought in the meantime was to open up communications. The United Presbyterian body, to which the overture specially referred, was not only, relatively to their own, a numerous body in England, but they were such a body as they might very comfortably enter into an alliance with; and if this desirable object could only be accomplished in an honourable manner, and with a due regard to the ecclesiastical characteristics of either side, he considered they would be doing great good to the Presbyterian cause in England. At the same

time, he must not by any means be understood as wishing the Churches to jump at once into this alliance, or without due deliberation as to the points of difference between them; for all he wished in the meantime was to enter into communication with the other Presbyterian bodies, so that a foundation might be laid for something substantive being done at a future time.

Mr. Spears, Stafford, considered that many Presbyterian Churches were anxious for such an alliance, and he heartily approved of the proposal to open up a correspondence for the attainment of this desirable result—a result to which so many circumstances in the present day pointed out as likely to be realised.

Mr. Trail also heartily approved of the movement, for now he was more convinced than ever that the time was approaching he had earnestly longed for, when the various Presbyterian Churches should form but one head. It was true that the one section maintained the principle of Church establishments, and the other did not, but, as had been suggested, that might be left as one of the open questions which they would honestly and manfully discuss with each other.

Mr. Gillespie (elder) said, such an alliance was longed for by many of the leading members of the United Presbyterian Church in both England and Scotland.

Mr. T. Duncan said, he did not think the time had yet arrived for the alliance proposed.

Mr. John Weir (London), approved of the overture, and referred in terms of pleasing remembrance to the union he had witnessed in 1811, between the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and the Synod of Ulster.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Dr. Hamilton read the Report of the Committee on Foreign Missions, which gave an interesting account of the proceedings connected with the Church Missions in China and Corfu, and the lamented death of the wives of the missionaries at both these places. The revenue during the past year amounted to £800 0s. 8d, and the expenditure to between £1300 and £1400. In addition to the Report, Dr. Hamilton made a few supplementary observations on the extraordinary revolution now going on in China, and showed what the Chinese mind was capable of when the chains by which it had hitherto been bound was broken. It was surely an extraordinary thing, he said, that a time should have arrived when the Bible in China should become the text book of the aspirants to the imperial throne, and the morals of his army be regulated by the precepts of ten commandments. There was now the prospect of getting a fourth missionary in connection with the China mission, the expenses of which had been offered to be defrayed by friends in Scotland, many of whom, especially the friends of Dr. Burns, took a deep interest in the mission.

After a few remarks by several members, the Report was received and adopted.

DEPUTATION FROM SCOTLAND.

A deputation from the Free Church of Scotland, consisting of Dr. Smyth, Glasgow, Moderator of the General Assembly, Dr. McCre, Rev. Mr. Bradwood, missionary from India, and the Rev. Mr. Ferguson, Bridge of Allan (ministers), Mr. Henry Paul and Mr. Bethune (elders), were introduced by the Rev. W. Chalmers, who gave an account of the affectionate manner in which their deputation had been received by the Assembly of the Free Church.

Dr. Smyth then addressed the Synod, congratulating them upon their success in their various schemes of Christian enterprise.

Dr. McCre followed Dr. Smyth in a speech characterized by much of that research into ecclesiastical history for which he is so distinguished.

NEW EDUCATION BILL FOR SCOTLAND.

In accordance with a suggestion thrown out

by one of the members of the deputation from the Free Church of Scotland, the Clerk read the draft of a petition to the Legislature on this subject, which had been prepared by the Committee and generally approved of the measure. The petition to the House of Lords was ordered to be transmitted to Lord Pannmure for presentation to the House of Lords, and to Mr. Digby Seymour for presentation to the House of Commons.

MISSIONARY CONVENTION IN NEW YORK.

The missionary meeting, designed for conference with the Rev. Dr. Duff, for which arrangements were made some time since, convened in the Lecture Room of Rev. Dr. Jas. W. Alexander's church, New York, on the 4th inst. Some two or three hundred of the prominent friends of Missions were present, including officers of the voluntary and various denominational organizations—seven evangelical denominations being represented. It will be understood, that there was no design to break down denominational distinctions, nor to encourage the idea that all can be fused into one or more general organizations. The effect of this conference is precisely the reverse of this; it shows that however much the various branches of the church may insist upon carrying on their operations distinctly, they are yet aiming at the same great end, and can still confer with each other as to the most efficient methods of accomplishing it; in other words, that distinctive organizations do not argue uncharitableness, or hostility and conflict. The following is a condensed report of the proceedings:

At 10 o'clock the meeting was organized by the Hon. Luther Bradish, as the presiding officer, and the Rev. Mr. Patterson of Philadelphia, and John Paton of New York, as secretaries.

Among the foreign missionaries present were the Rev. William Dean, D.D., Baptist missionary to China; the Rev. J. G. Oncken, D.D., Baptist missionary in Germany; the Rev. John Newton, Presbyterian missionary to Northern India; Mr. C. A. Minor, of the Palestine Agricultural mission; the Rev. Geo. Pierson, American Board's missionary for Micronesia; the Rev. A. H. Seely, Presbyterian, Northern India; the Rev. Oliver Crane of Turkey; the Rev. E. M. Dadd, Greece; the Rev. Narcissus Cyr, Baptist Grand Ligne mission; the Rev. William Ramsay, Presbyterian, India.

After a brief address from Mr. Bradish, the Rev. Dr. Alexander gave out the hymn, commencing, "Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly dove," &c., and offered prayer. The Rev. Dr. Murray of Elizabethtown, moved the appointment of a committee, to be called the "business committee," to which all subjects for discussion should be committed; this was ordered, and the committee was constituted of the following named persons: The Rev. Dr. Murray, Presbyterian; the Rev. Dr. Tyng, Protestant Episcopal; the Rev. Dr. Bangs, Methodist Episcopal; the Rev. Dr. Dr. Watt, Reformed Dutch; the Rev. Dr. Oncken, Baptist Missionary from Germany; the Rev. J. S. Wood, Secretary of American Board of Foreign Missions; the Rev. J. L. Wilson, Secretary Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions; the Rev. Robert Patterson, Reformed Presbyterian; Geo. B. Stuart, Esq., Reformed Presbyterian.

This committee subsequently brought in a report in the shape of questions. The first was, "To what extent are we authorized by the word of God to expect the conversion of the world to Christ?" This brought out a full and free discussion of the question, which resulted in the unanimous adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved—That without entering into any definition as to the technical meaning of such a term as conversion, and without entering into any statement as to the time or succession of antecedent events, the convention rejoice in unanimously testifying their simple, heartfelt, undoubting faith