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THE ENGLISH CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

Thanks to the ever-accelerating speed of our trans-Atlantic mail service, the English mail has just brought us—May 22nd—the *Christian World* of the 11th, and enables us to lay before our readers in this June number (a month earlier than ever before) an account of the first sessions of the English Congregational Union, held May 7th and 8th, in London.

The "business meeting" was held in Memorial Hall, on Monday evening, 7th May. Rev. Dr. Aveling, the late Chairman, presided, in the absence of Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., the present incumbent, who was in his seat in Parliament, as Dr. Aveling remarked, "standing side by side with their great leader, Mr. Gladstone, in declaring the true policy of England on the Eastern question,"—a statement which was greeted with unbounded applause.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

After the nomination and election of chairman for 1878—an honour conferred unanimously upon the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown—the Rev. A. Hannay read the Annual Report, from which we learn (1.) that the committee on the spiritual condition of the country, and the provision which exists for a pure and Scriptural ministry of the Gospel, was preparing a scheme of questions to be submitted shortly, through the officers of the County Unions. (2.) That in future, in electing the Committee of the Union, the names of all representative members, who had been nominated in writing by seven representative members, prior to the 15th March, would be placed on the voting-papers. (3.) That steps had been taken to promote a thorough discussion of the Finance Scheme, and that of twenty-four counties where conferences had been held, twenty were, in the main, favourable to the proposal. Mr. S. Morley, M.P., and other gentlemen, who had been more or less opposed to it had been added to the Committee, and it was proposed to reconsider the whole question at a conference of delegates of the County Associations in September, when it was hoped a plan could be formulated to meet the views of all parties. (4.) The Congregational Union Lecture for 1877 would be delivered in October, by the Rev. E. R. Conder, M.A., of Leeds, on "The Basis of Faith,"—a survey of the grounds of Christian Theism; and the succeeding lecturers would be the Rev. J. Guinness Rogers, and the Rev. Baldwin Brown. (5.) The Committee reported the action taken by them during the year, in regard to various public questions—the Bulgarian Atrocities, the Education Bill, the Burials Bill, and the Conference of the Liberation Society, in all which they were heartily sustained by the meeting.

The Rev. J. H. Wilson also read the Report of the Trustees of Memorial Hall,