

composition of those works which have had such an extensive sale among devout people. The U. P. Presbyteries have all voted in favor of union, and, of the Free Church Presbyteries, 52 have voted for and 10 against. Geo. Gilfillan continues his wordy denunciations of the measure, which he deprecates on account of its tendency to narrow religious thought, which, however, must burst former barriers in spite of all his fears. The Rev. Fergus Ferguson has published a volume of sixteen sermons, which are likely to be worth a perusal especially in connexion with his case.

The Church of Scotland mourns the loss of a valuable and devoted servant in Dr. Ogilvie, who went out to Calcutta in 1843 to take charge of her institution there, and has laboured without intermission there ever since, universally respected and beloved. We are glad to read of the convalescence of Mr. Grant after a severe illness. Mr. MacWilliam's presentation to a parish deprives us here of one who, by his learning, zeal, straightforwardness and amiability, has held a high place among us. A. P.

Notes of the Week.

The only news this week is pipers' news,—that we are in the midst of the general election for the Local Legislature. In Halifax, at any rate, very little else is talked about, except the usury laws and the inconveniences to discounters and the absurdities connected with them. As to political prospects, it is impossible to gather from the papers what they really are. Both sides are going to carry all their men in all the counties with sweeping majorities. This childish extravagance makes the papers worthless to the impartial and general public. To know the real state of matters we would need to be in the confidence of the knowing ones on both sides, and then perhaps we would not know. The zeal and energy which both sides show in working and canvassing, in bad weather and good weather, bad roads or good roads, is very edifying. The ingenuity with which they avoid any real or important issue, and divert attention to personalities that ought not to be interesting, is not so edifying. There can be no doubt that

all that our Local Legislature has to do could be done in half the time and at half the cost now expended; but neither side seems to see it, nor to have the vigour to determine that so it shall be. There can be no doubt that the education question is in every one's mind, but no paper ventures to touch it for fear that votes on this or that side may be lost. In the Halifax School Board we had, not long ago, the loudest professions concerning the right of the public to be informed as to all that was being done there, and full information was given as to the cost of new heating apparatus in one of the schools and a few other trifles; but since the election fever has supervened, though a new, and, as it stands, a rather one-sided bargain has been made with Archbishop Conolly, involving thousands of dollars and binding the city for twenty-one years, not a hint of the matter has been given to the papers; and even if it had been given, it would probably not have appeared till after the 16th, for we notice that though the correspondence on the subject was published in the *Church Chronicle*, it has not yet been copied nor commented on in any of our political organs.

Talking of the Halifax School Board, we cannot help asking our City friends how long they are going to stand it? Every other settlement in the Province has the privilege of electing its own School Trustees. Halifax has not. It cannot be trusted to take care of itself. Unlike our country districts, it has no men who have retired from business, no men of culture, no practical educationists it could summon to the work. So the Local Government kindly selects for us seven men, and the City Council selects six of its number, who were sent into it to do different work altogether, and this precious thirteen taxes us forty or fifty thousand dollars annually, runs up a big debt against the City, does what it likes, and Halifax shuts its eyes, opens its mouth, and meekly submits. Chezzet-cook or Polly Bog would not stand it, but Halifax utters no word of remonstrance. They passed a School Bill in England last year; and every Borough or district that wished to have schools, were empowered to elect Trustees by a direct vote of all ratepayers. What would the Londoners have said, if all England had