

RELIGIOUS WORLD ABROAD.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Declaration of the Clergy of the Established Church to the effect that the Church holds to the Orthodox views of inspiration and eternal punishment, notwithstanding the late decision of the Privy Council to the contrary, has been signed, we are happy to say, by a considerable majority of the clergy. Hence, whatever may be thought of the Privy Council, the Church itself must be regarded as unfortunate in its connection with the State, rather than guilty of apostasy from the truth. Yet if these ministers consent to remain under the control of the State authorities and to surrender their diocesan and pulpits to such pernicious and soul-destroying influences as under the decision of this Council must be expected to prevail, their protestations will be regarded by the rest of Christendom as empty forms, and their declaration of orthodoxy will be judged insincere. Either the Anglican Church must obtain from the government, the power of discipline, or, to maintain her claims to a place among evangelical churches, her clergy must abandon the protection of the State and go into the ranks of Dissent. In America, we are deeply interested in this struggle between the strong aristocratic tendencies of the cultivated Englishman and the love of truth in the breast of the true Christian. We earnestly hope that the latter, in some way, will be the victor.

The opinion given by sundry lawyers, that the signing of the declaration was virtually a rebellion against the government, has been met by an opposite opinion given by the Attorney-General and Sir Hugh Cairns, on the ground of the distinction to be drawn between the judgment pronounced and the reasoning of members of the Privy Council on the basis of such judgment. Open Air Services in London.—The report of the London Diocesan Church Mission on this subject says, that the testimonies which they continue to receive from incumbents of parishes of the good effects produced by these services are satisfactory; it is indeed a work of highly missionary character, requiring both physical strength and great moral courage, and which nothing could long sustain but a truly apostolic zeal: it is to emulate the preachers of the Reformation at Paul's Cross, and to imitate the example of the Great Teacher who taught the multitudes on the sea-shore, on the mountain slope, or in the streets of Capernaum, and whom the common people heard gladly. More than fifty clergymen, invited by letters in the name of the Bishop of London, have been induced to offer themselves willingly to preach to the people in the remotest parts of the metropolis. Amongst them several of the incumbents of large parishes are willing to add to their overwhelming labors at home the additional exertion of aiding the great objects of the Diocesan Church Mission.

Wesleyan Jubilee Fund.—The total of contributions promised to this fund, more than a month ago, was £160,000, or \$800,000. The Wesleyans of England have over half a million scholars and over 90,000 teachers in their Sabbath schools.

British and Foreign Bible Society.—The annual meeting of this Society was held May 4th, in Exeter Hall, Lord Shaftesbury presiding. The Rev. Mr. Jackson, the Secretary, read the report, from which it appeared that the total receipts from the ordinary source of income had amounted to £168,905 4s., being £1,221 2s. 8d. more than in any former year. To the above must be added the sum of 770l. 13s. 11d. for the Chinese New Testament Fund, and 27l. 13s. 8d. for the special fund for India; making a grand total of 169,703l. 17s. 7d. The sales of the Society for the year were as follows: From the depot at home, £149,767; from depots abroad, 645,351 total, 2,495,118 copies. The total increase of the Society now amount to 45,045 copies.

Irish Anniversaries.—The "Irish Society," an Educational enterprise under Anglican auspices, reports an income of £8878, an increase of £700 on last year. Over 13,000 children have passed through the schools. It was stated that only part of the Bible ever put into Irish, by the Church of Rome, was that put it far beyond the reach of the peasants.—The Irish Church Missions reports an income of £26,073, an increase of £1300.—The Church Education Society reports £43,702, a diminution of £618, 6s. 6d.—The Sunday School Society pursues its good work in peace and quiet. The total number of schools in connection with the Society on the 1st January, 1864, was 2555, which were attended by 203,056 scholars, and 19,053 teachers. Of the total number of scholars 136,307 were reported as reading in the Bible or Testament, and 57,360 to be adults above the age of fifteen years.—The Hibernian Bible Society reported its issues at 75,297 copies of the Scriptures, showing an increase of 325 copies over the issue of the preceding year, and making the total issue since the commencement of the Society 3,164,882 copies. The income of the Society continues to be steadily advanced.—The Protestant Orphan Society reported an income of £4633, an increase of £116 over last year. The number of orphans at present supported by the Society is 432 on the 1st of January, and thirty supernumeraries, as stated, in illustration of the accuracy of the Church of Rome, that prior to 1855 there were twenty oratories of that Church in Dublin. Of these have been established; in one of these, founded in 1866, there are now 460 boys and girls; in the other four there are 3500.—The contributions to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel were £2848, showing an increase of £200.—The Bible Orphan Society of Ireland has just been divided into three branches; one in

Derry, one in Dublin and one in Belfast. Each branch has a committee, an office, and agents of its own. The three have divided the whole island among them, and proclaim their purpose to convert it with the Word of God and a healthful religious literature. During the past year the Derry branch circulated 4,239 Bibles and Testaments, 65 Psalm books, 17 commentaries on the Bible, and 3,352 religious books. One colporteur sold Bibles and other books to the amount of £129 17s. 2d. The Weekly Review regards this as "one of the most important agencies for the spread of truth in that land."

FRANCE.

The Reformed Church and M. Coquerel.—It is gratifying to see the Reformed Church of France vindicating, in so decided a manner, her fidelity to the principles of the Gospel. It is not a little remarkable to find a protestant church under a Papal government, upon which it is to some degree dependent, giving clearer and more authoritative proofs of soundness than a Protestant State church under a Protestant government is permitted to give. After the Consistory of Paris had sustained the decision of the Presbyterian Council in excluding M. Coquerel from the pulpit, not only did the secular press espouse the cause of the infidel preacher, but the Consistory of Nismes protested against the action of the Council of Paris, as subversive of the great principles of Protestantism! The agitation now spread through the Protestant Church of France. Consistory took rank against consistory. Address followed address. The cry of the infidel or semi-infidel mob, washed or unwashed, was with M. Coquerel and his followers; but it remained to be seen on which side the French Protestant church, as a whole, would declare itself. An opportunity for so doing, in an emphatic and unmistakable manner, was presented by the meeting of the Annual Conference of the Reformed French Church, which took place in Paris in April. The muster was strong, about 200 voting members being present at the General Conference. The discussion was protracted, and nineteen of the sceptical party left the place before the vote was taken. The question in debate was this: "Are not the existence of any church, and the rights of the faithful, endangered by unlimited freedom of religious teaching?" It was decided by a vote of 169 to 6 that "the authority given to the pastors by their sacred ministry resides entirely in the conformity of their teaching with the declarations of the Holy Scriptures, and particularly in the fundamental doctrines of the divinity of Jesus Christ and Redemption, which the universal Christian Church has always considered as evidently contained in the Bible, and which are expressed in all Protestant liturgies; and that, consequently, it is an abuse of power and spiritual tyranny to take advantage of the position as a minister of Jesus Christ, and in a Christian Church, in order to propagate, directly or indirectly, doctrines contrary thereto." In the Special Reformed Conference, composed exclusively of pastors and elders of the Reformed National Church, a similar view was adopted by 141 against 23.

It is a matter of some interest to know that in the latter body, the statement of the majority was presented and eloquently sustained by the celebrated M. Guizot. The position of this distinguished man has been rendered somewhat doubtful by his conduct in reference to the rationalist (Geneva) version of the Scriptures. He still retains the Presidency of the Bible Society which adopted that version, and from which the evangelical ministry has withdrawn. At the late anniversary of that society, M. Guizot, according to the correspondent of the Christian Work, sat surrounded by rationalists, and was the only orthodox speaker. In the Conference above mentioned, he brought in the report which was adopted, and which contains the following important and ably stated position: "We also hold as firmly as any, both for those who think differently from us, as well as for ourselves, the tatarary principle of religious liberty. In virtue of this principle every one is free to profess openly what he believes, and to unite with those who are like-minded; but we cannot understand what a Church would be in which there were no points of common faith, and in which the most divergent creeds, or even the most contradictory, might be indifferently professed. Such a state of things would not be the exercise of religious liberty, but the destruction of all religious society, which needs, more than any other society, close and serious sympathy."

In the course of his eloquent speech, Guizot said:—"I call your attention to the capital and supreme fact of the present situation. Look around; the attack on the foundations of the Christian faith is everywhere apparent, in Germany, Switzerland, Holland, England, France. Some say they have no fear, nor have I; so that those who defend the citadel reply to those who attack it; so long as the faithful are not indolent and inert in presence of the active and zealous infidels."

The position of the Reformed Church of France and its ablest leaders, taken amid a storm of opposition and obloquy, is fixed, clear, decisive, for the great principles of the Reformation. It is a fact worthy of devout gratitude to God, in these days of defection, equivocation and apostasy. A single other phase of M. Coquerel's case is reported in the Christian Work, and is of interest as showing the unscrupulous means used by his friends. During the trial of the appeal taken by pastor Martin-Pashaud from the decision of the Council to the Consistory, the 5,000 signatures to a protestation in favor of Pastor A. Coquerel, junior, were brought in a folio register by a pastor; he was asked if he intended to deposit it officially in the hands of the consistory; he replied negatively. He

was then requested to declare if it had not come to his knowledge that signatures had been obtained surreptitiously from Roman Catholics, Lutherans, women and children, who, when better informed, had expressed their regret at having signed without understanding what they did. He gave no direct answer, and severe blame was pronounced on the whole matter by a venerable member.

The Evangelical Alliance of France has recently held its annual meeting. Its receipts have been 5600 francs; and expenses 3900. Its chief work during the year has been its effort, so happily crowned with success, for the release of Matamoros and his fellow Christians from the Spanish prisons; and the signature by 800 French pastors of an address to American Christians, expressing sympathy with those who are against slavery. It also produced 4000 signatures from clergymen in England.

In Ulster, Canton of Zurich, a preacher openly accused of the rankest infidelity and making no attempt to refute the accusation, was elected Pastor of the "Evangelical Reformed Church," by 865 votes against 145; and in the very church in which the result was proclaimed there resounded acclamations which "shook the windows," as some eye-witnesses have observed. In the evening they had a serenade, rockets and blue-lights, in honor of the new nominee.

GERMANY.

The Evangelical Alliance, which met in Berlin, March 10, was honored by the presence of the Queen of Prussia. Drs. Krummacher, Nitzsch, Reuss, and many others were present. There was also present an ex-bishop of the Catholic Church, Count von Siedlitz, formerly Prince-Bishop of Silesia, who, not long ago came over to Protestantism, and is now one of the most zealous furtherers of all our religious undertakings. He has recently, at considerable cost, founded in Berlin an institution for the education of young theologians, which is called the "Paulinian," and is now in operation.

The meeting concluded with an address from Dr. Hoffmann respecting the Protestant Armenians, which conveyed much valuable information respecting the Mission among this remarkable people, in which the present King takes especial interest, having made a donation of 2000 thalers to its funds.

Aid to suffering Soldiers.—A meeting took place in Berlin, March 16th, which was attended by several members of the royal family, at which the celebrated father of the German Home Mission, Dr. Wichern, gave a most graphic account of the great efforts now being made to furnish the soldiers of the allied armies with Bibles and good books, and to give both to the wounded and healthy among them, the spiritual and physical help they require. The enthusiastic interest taken throughout Germany in this war, shows itself in the remarkable efforts and large contributions daily made to provide for the comforts of the army in the field.

PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

TRACTS OF THE 12TH ANNUAL REPORT MADE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1864, AT DAYTON, OHIO.

The Annual Report of the Presbyterian Publication Committee, made to the General Assembly at Dayton, Ohio, May 20th, 1864, is of a very cheering character. The advance in the Committee's work during the past year, and the hopefulness of its future, are subjects of congratulation to the denomination.

PUBLICATIONS.

The Committee, since their last Report, have added to their list the following Tracts and Books: TRACTS OF THE FIRST SERIES, 12mo.—No. 12. The Sovereignty of God. By the Rev. Jacob Heffenstein, D.D. No. 13. Presbyterianism—Its Affinities. By the Rev. Albert Barnes. The American Presbyterian Almanac for 1864.

TRACTS OF THE SECOND SERIES, 18mo. No. 20. Growing Old. By Rev. George F. Wiswell. A tract for those growing old and out of Christ. No. 21. Our Laymen, their Responsibilities and Duties. By a Layman. An earnest appeal to the laymen of our churches to fulfill their high duties in the church.

No. 22. Child Membership. By Rev. J. Garland Hamner. In which the relation of the children of the church to the church, is developed. No. 23. Profane Swearing a Crime. By Rev. Thomas Brainerd, D.D. No. 24. The Work of the Christian Church. 20 pages. By the Rev. Norman McLeod, D.D.

A Church Catechism, for children and youth in the Presbyterian Church. 24 pages, 18mo. By Rev. B. B. Hotchkiss. The Soldier's Scrap Book. 64 pages, 32mo. By the Rev. B. B. Hotchkiss. A little volume written for our soldiers. The Christian Commission show their appreciation of it by ordering 80,000 copies for distribution.

Life at Three Score. 80 pages, 12mo. By the Rev. Albert Barnes. BOUND VOLUMES.—The Law of Baptism, as it regards the Mote and the Subjects. By the Rev. Edwin Hall, D.D. The Closet Companion; a Manual of Prayer. By a Layman. With an Introduction by the Rev. Albert Barnes. Heroes for the Truth. By the late Rev. W. K. Tweedie, D.D., of Edinburgh. Eight sketches of men eminent for energy, decision, and heroism in the cause of truth.

God's Way of Peace. By the Rev. Horatius Bonar, of Scotland. Pointing inquirers to Christ, and leading troubled Christians to rest solely, fully, unwaveringly on Him. BOOKS FOR THE FAMILY AND SABBATH-SCHOOL.—The Cannibal Islands; or Fiji and the Fijians. With fourteen illustrations. Bank Notes. Two English narratives,

the one inculcating faith and the other works. The Two Watches. 93 pages, 18mo. Three narratives, by the author of "Bank Notes." Far Away; or Life at Tanna and Samoa. By the author of "Money," "The Barclays," &c., &c. Martyrs of France; or, The Witnesses of the Reformed Church of France, from the reign of Francis I. to the revocation of the edict of Nantes. By Rev. John W. Mears.

TO BE PUBLISHED.—A history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, by the Rev. E. H. Gillett, will soon be issued. It will form two volumes, of duodecimo size, of 550 pages each, and will prove a most valuable gift to the Presbyterian Churches of both Assemblies. One volume is stereotyped, and the work will be carried forward to completion rapidly. MANUSCRIPTS INVITED.—The Committee are now in a position to do justice to manuscripts designed for publication. They will be glad to receive works suited to the character and purposes of their organization, and to make compensation when such works are adopted and published.

SOCIAL HYMN BOOK.—The hymns for a Social Hymn and Tune Book had been selected and arranged under the direction of a Special Committee, though not finally approved. There was found, however, to be a serious difficulty as to the size and contents of the book to be issued. This difficulty lay in the widely differing wishes of those who asked for such a volume. Some desired a book of about 700 Hymns with Tunes; others, especially those who are laboring in Home Missionary and small country churches, desired a book whose price should be low, and of which a dozen could be taken in the preacher's pockets to a school-house meeting or to a funeral. To suit both parties, as well as those with intermediate views, with one book, was out of the question. It was therefore determined that the wants of our Missionaries, and of the churches desiring a small portable book for prayer-meetings, should first be met. A selection of 400 Psalms and Hymns has accordingly been made for this purpose, which will be issued under the title of "THE SOCIAL PSALMIST." To secure portability and cheapness, this book will be without Tunes.

The publication of the large book with Tunes, involving a much heavier expenditure and more difficult questions, was postponed for farther light as to the wishes of the Church, or specific instructions from the Assembly. DONATIONS FOR STEREOTYPING.—The plates of "Presbyterianism; its Affinities," were stereotyped by friends in Bergen, N. J. Those of "Life at Three Score," and of "Our Laymen," were presented by their authors. The plates of the "Closet Companion" also were put at the service of the Committee by the author. "God's Way of Peace" is stereotyped, by a donation from Mrs. E. K. Smith, of St. Louis, recently deceased, as a memorial of affection to a mother, whose desire it was thus to be perpetuating a holy influence through the press of her Church after she had gone to the Church above.

TRÉASURER'S REPORT AND BUSINESS STATEMENT. The Annual Report of the Treasurer shows: Balance on hand, April 1, 1863, \$754 62 Donations rec'd for Gen'l Purposes, 4,794 42 Donations rec'd for Special Fund, 14,911 88 Cash rec'd on account of sales, 17,946 83 Total, \$38,407 25 Orders paid by Treasurer, 33,231 11 Balance on hand April 1, 1864, 5,126 14

The cash received does not show the full amount of sales, as, in some cases, the balances only in favor of the Committee appear on the Treasurer's books. The gross sales for the year amount to \$22,353.66, as compared with \$15,722.83 the preceding year, showing an increase of 40 per cent. in the business of the Committee. If to this we add \$1,660.23, the value of grants of books and tracts made during the year, it will give a total of \$24,013.89. Their last Annual Report showed the Assets of the Committee April 1, 1863, to be \$25,358 16 Liabilities, 5,756 88 Excess of assets over liabilities, \$19,601 28

This excess of assets, however, being in the form of stereotype plates, stock, fixtures, &c., was not available for the increase of the Committee's operations, there being actually a cash deficiency of \$242.70. On April 1st, 1864, the Committee report Assets of the Committee, \$36,383 41 Liabilities, 2,073 41 Excess of assets over liabilities, \$34,310 00 To meet these liabilities, amounting to \$2,073 41 There are assets immediately available amounting to, 12,756 62 Showing a surplus of available assets of \$10,683 21 Against a deficiency of \$242.70 on April 1st, 1863.

The Business Committee express their satisfaction at the present healthful state of the Committee's financial position. In view of the results of the past year's operations, the anticipated advance of the Committee's business, and the progress made in securing the Endowment Fund, the Committee look forward to the privilege of largely increasing their donations of Books and Tracts during the years to come, and of thus strengthening the hands of the members and ministers of our churches by the help which a sound Evangelical and Denominational Literature will furnish.

THE PRESBYTERIAN HOUSE.—The labors of the Committee will be increased during the coming year by the transfer to them of the management of the Presbyterian House. It may be well to state that the \$10,000 to be appropriated to a diminution of the incumbrance of \$20,000 upon the Presbyterian House will be an investment to that extent for the direct benefit of the Committee. The House having been transferred to the Committee, the relief from the payment of interest upon \$10,000 is equivalent to a diminution of rent to that amount. THE ENDOWMENT FUND. After a full discussion in the last Assembly, it was unanimously Resolved, "That the Permanent Committee are directed, if in their judgment it is expedient, to inaugurate and vigorously to prosecute an effort to raise a fund of \$50,000; \$40,000 of which shall be applied as their capital in trade, and \$10,000 toward the removal of the incumbrance on the Presbyterian House." Early in the Autumn, the services of the Rev. George A. Howard, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Catskill, N. Y., were obtained for the difficult and delicate post of special agent for securing the fund. In this appointment the Committee deem themselves to have been happy. Mr. Howard entered upon the work September 15th, 1863, and has prosecuted it with great earnestness, mainly in the city of New York and its vicinity. In this report, Mr. Howard expresses regret that he had found it necessary to give so much time to so limited a space. But, notwithstanding the generous co-operation of some of the churches, it proved needful. He expresses the hope that, as a partial compensation for the time and unexpected labor which was required to obtain the amount reported, more has been done to awaken interest in the objects of the Committee, and to quicken a right denominational feeling, than would have been accomplished had the amount been obtained from a smaller number and with less urgency. He reports subscriptions thus far obtained amounting to \$11,545. In addition to the labors of Mr. Howard, the Committee have secured subscriptions and donations in Philadelphia and vicinity; and in more distant churches have had the aid of pastors and elders, so as to be able to report \$29,000 as subscribed or paid March 31, 1864. This sum has since been increased, and the Committee do not doubt that, with the co-operation of the pastors of our churches upon which they may fairly count, the full amount of \$50,000 can and will be secured by the close of the present year. The completion of this effort will be an era in the history of the Assembly's publication work, from which, with God's blessing, will date an enlarged usefulness, with every prospect of perpetuity and constant increase. It must be borne in mind, that for the full success of this undertaking, it will be needful that every church should do its part. It is not desirable that a few individuals, or churches, should do the whole. An investment in this fund will secure that interest in its results which ought to be felt by all of our churches. It is impossible, without a great expenditure of time and money, to send a special messenger to all of our congregations. The larger towns and cities, seated upon the main lines of communication, may be thus visited, but many churches must be left unvisited if a special agency is relied upon. INSTRUCTIONS OF THE LAST ASSEMBLY. THE NEW YORK DEPOSITORY, which it is the wish of the Assembly should be kept well supplied, will, it is believed, be found properly provided. Mr. Randolph, with whom is the Committee's New York Agency, has removed his store to No. 770 Broadway, (at the corner of Ninth Street,) where he will be able to give more room to our stock. CHURCH PSALMIST.—The action of the Assembly on the Church Psalmist was reported to the Presbyteries by the Stated Clerk. A number of churches, during the past year, have adopted our Book. PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEES.—The instruction of the Assembly, that "each Presbytery appoint a minister or elder to see to it that the Publication Cause is presented annually to the churches in its connection, to secure contributions to it, and that these agents report their labors to the Secretary of the Permanent Committee" was acted upon, by the appointment of such committees in several Presbyteries. In some cases the duties imposed have received an attention highly encouraging. When this system shall be carried out in every Presbytery, and for each of the benevolent schemes of the Assembly, our agencies for the spread of the Gospel and the upbuilding of the Church will be furnished with all the means they can fairly demand. After the blessing of God in spiritual gifts, our next great want is system based on principle. CIRCULATION OF PUBLICATIONS. The question, by what method, beyond the ordinary channels of trade, our books and tracts shall be distributed, now calls for practical consideration. In some Presbyteries it is under discussion. The Committee invite suggestions as to the most economical mode of securing the object proposed. DONATIONS OF BOOKS AND TRACTS. In addition to the circulation of its publications by sale, the Committee, during the past year, have made donations to the value of \$1,660.23. The Committee anticipate, with much satisfaction, the increase of this part of their work. So far as the Committee have been permitted to discharge this office of distribution, they have found it one highly acceptable to the recipients, as is shown in their report by interesting extracts from the letters received at the Presbyterian House. These letters plainly indicate a real call for just that work which the Committee has in hand. The Committee direct attention, in connection with these quotations from letters, to the fact that this is simply a branch of the great mission work which

God lays upon us. It is as an aid to the pastor in his church, to the Home Missionary in his needy fields, to the Presbyterian itinerant, to the layman, to the army chaplain, or visitor, to the Sabbath school teacher, that the Committee labor. In proportion to the means furnished them, will be the measure of help meted out to those who need and desire assistance. CONCLUSION.—The Committee, in concluding their Report, congratulate the Assembly upon the cheering aspect of the work which has been committed to them. Recognizing in the enlarged means entrusted to their care an increase of responsibility to God and the Church, they hope, with his blessing, without whose favor all our labors are vain, to do some good thing for the cause of the Redeemer in a sinful world. THE COMMITTEE. The Committee consists of the following names: Term Expiring May, 1864.—Rev. N. S. S. Bonan, D. D., Rev. Albert Barnes, Rev. Asa D. Smith, D. D., Mr. F. L. Bodine, Rev. George F. Wiswell. Term Expiring May, 1865.—Rev. William E. Moore, Rev. Henry Darling, D. D., Rev. E. B. Adams, Rev. T. J. Shepherd, Mr. William E. Tenbrook. Term Expiring May, 1866.—Rev. Daniel March, Rev. J. Glentworth Butler, Charles S. Wurts, M. D., Samuel C. Perkins, Esq., Hon. William Strong. The Officers of the Committee are: Rev. ALBERT BARNES, Chairman. Mr. WILLIAM L. HILDEBURN, Treas. Rev. JOHN W. DULLES, Secretary, and Editor of the Committee's Publications.

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