

RELIGIOUS WORLD ABROAD. MONTHLY SUMMARY.

Great Britain.

Presbyterian Synods and Assemblies.—We have already furnished our readers with the most important facts in the condition of the leading Presbyterian bodies of England and Scotland, as brought out in their recent annual meetings. The prosperity of these bodies and their hopeful condition were never more encouraging than now. The movement towards union among them is making steady if not rapid progress, and the amount of kindly feeling and mutual respect elicited in the discussions and conferences, is most creditable to the Christianity of all the parties. Substantial, spiritual unity is more manifest between them than ever, and a testimony to such union has thus been given, which will not be cancelled, even if the negotiations for outward union fail.

Essays and Reviews.—Decision of the Privy Council.—The Archbishop of York has lately issued a pastoral, in which he aims to show that the Privy Council has pronounced no opinion on the "Essays and Reviews" as a whole, but only on certain disjointed fragments. He considers, however, that there are two points in the judgment about which the Church of England may well be disquieted. These are: "The inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture, and the eternity of the punishment of the wicked. Upon the former of these points, the authority of the Scripture, I must not shrink from saying, that a doctrine as to Holy Scripture has found some countenance from the 'Judgment,' which no article or formula of any Church whatever has before adopted, namely—that the Bible is called the Word of God, not because it is, but because it contains the Word of God."

Rev. Henry Allen, Chairman of the English Congregational Union, at the annual meeting, made an address upon the "Inspiration of Scripture," which gave rise to some discussion. He repudiated the theory of verbal inspiration, as stated by Gausson, considering that its advocates most consistently exclude the human element; but maintained at the same time that all parts had Divine authority. Dr. Caird, Professor of Theology in the Established Church of Scotland, says:—"So far as my own experience goes, neither as respects numbers nor ability, can we say of the theological students of this University that there is any indication of decline. Better material to work upon I could not wish to have. Students of more thoughtful, earnest, and well-disciplined minds, of more manly and honorable bearing in every respect, than the majority of those with whom I have had to deal, I could not wish."

Irish Emigration.—The Papal authorities of Ireland, as well as the haters of American nationality in the British Parliament, are plying every means to discourage the enormous tide of emigration from Ireland to this country. Every week close upon 3000 emigrants sail for America alone; more money is sent from America for emigration purposes than has ever been known; and the people who go could quite well afford to stay; they are part of that great country middle class that are likely to be the most independent among an independent people. Archbishop Cullen, in a recent pastoral says, the losses to Catholicism are so great that there ought to be twice as many Catholics in America as there actually are.

Germany.

The War with Denmark is bringing out the regard of Christian people to the temporal and spiritual needs of the soldiers. Dr. Wichern the celebrated founder of the Inner mission has been carrying on a work in the army similar to that of our Christian Commission. At the late meeting of the Evangelical Alliance at Berlin, he delivered an excellent discourse upon his experiences at the seat of war in Sleswic. Dr. Wichern described very touchingly the great exertions which have been made to supply the allied army with Bibles and other good books, and to extend all kinds of spiritual and physical consolation to both the able bodied and the wounded soldiers. The enthusiasm which pervades all Germany on the subject of this war does not fail to show itself in the admirable provisions that have been made for the comfort of the army engaged. Enormous sums are every day contributed for this purpose. The friends of the kingdom of God are delighted to hear it attested on all sides, that the severity and bitter earnest of the war have in general rendered our army well disposed to receive the consolations of the word of God. Several impressive religious awakenings have been reported from the scene of hostilities.

The Protestants of Austria. On the 22d of May, there met the first general synod representing the Protestants of Bohemia, Moravia, the Austrian part of Silesia, and the German countries of the Austrian empire. Although from this organization and synod there is not to be expected a fulfillment of all just desires regarding the welfare of the Church, we must still acknowledge that by these means the attention of all the members was directed to ecclesiastical matters and many are sincerely interested in the progress of the kingdom of God. The old members are awakened, and new members are coming over to the Evangelical Church.

Great efforts are being made to supply the Protestant communities hitherto dependent to a large extent on the Roman Catholics for educational facilities, with schools and teachers of their own. A pastor in Moravia writes to the Christian Work: "The Lord is adding to the Church daily such as shall be saved, but the Church has no means to provide the school for them all. In Silesia, in the north-east of Bohemia, a village three years ago with only Roman Catholic in-

habitants, and twelve miles distant from the nearest Protestant church, sixty or eighty adult persons were converted to the Gospel, but there were no means for giving them a preacher and a place of worship till the Protestants of Mecklenburgh provided it.

France.

Anniversaries.—The receipts of the Paris Missionary Society were 186,843 francs, or over \$35,000 during 1863. The Society's chief seat of exertion is among the Bassoutos in South Africa, whose chief called for missionaries more than thirty years ago, and providentially found them. This tribe, of about 20,000 souls, has been literally saved from destruction by the labors of the earnest men sent from Paris to preach Christ. The several stations are prosperous, symptoms of reviving grace are manifesting themselves here and there, and there is general progress. Native teachers are arising, intelligence is increasing, and a journal has come out in the Bassouto language (first formed into letters by the missionaries), edited by one of the missionaries, and called "The Little Light of Lesotto." Much hopeful success has also accompanied the first efforts of pastors Arbusset and Atger in the interesting Tabiti mission. A missionary has lately been sent to Senegambia.

The Deaconess Institution is prosperous. Its expenses were 95,000 francs. The Book Society which disseminates evangelical literature reported an income of 116,720 francs.

Holland.

Theological Discussion is carried on in Holland, according to a correspondent of the Christian Work, with great liveliness. There is perfect freedom of discussion and the most opposite opinions are boldly maintained. There is no privileged State Church and a great majority of the people take a deep interest in theological questions. Of the three universities, that of Leyden has been for the last fifteen years the stronghold of liberal opinions. Dr. Knaenen of the theological faculty, in his "Books of the Old Testament," furnished Colenso with weapons to attack the Pentateuch. Utrecht has three Orthodox professors; Doodes, Ter Haar and Van Oesterzee. Yet they seem to lack positiveness and aggressiveness in holding and pressing their opinions, and their Orthodoxy is spoken of as "no rigid creed fixed on mere confessional ground." They adhere to the great Scriptural truths written down in symbolical books and confessions of faith, but do not wish to have them obtruded upon the members of the Church, thinking they ought rather to be enforced by the way of conviction, and explained according to the progress of science and conscience of the living community. Calling themselves adherents of the "ethic" direction, they desire to cure the existing diseases rather by medical than by juridical measures. They acknowledge the right of true criticism, and wish, for all, the utmost liberty to profess their opinions. Prof. Zoopemer, in Utrecht, is on the other hand one of the most popular and fervid of the advocates of naturalism and does much to neutralize the influence of the Orthodox professors, his lectures being very attractive to the young. The Theologians of Groningen, are described as standing in the first line to defend the historical and supernatural truth of the Gospel. No doubt, the so-called "modern theology" of Renan, Strauss and Colenso is in the ascendant in Holland. Its leading teachers are Reville, Pierson and Busken-Hust. Not only in numerous pamphlets and periodicals, but even from the pulpit, the great truths and historical facts of Christianity, the divinity of Christ, his miraculous birth, his resurrection and ascension, his moral sanctity, as well as the miracles he is reported to have done, together with the authenticity and the credibility of the canonical books, are often openly disavowed, without any reserve.

Not all have the sincerity of Pierson, who, in a late pamphlet, that excited vehement opposition from Schwartz and De Liefde in Amsterdam, from La-Sausaie and Cohen-Stuart in Rotterdam, went so far as to say, that modern theologians should not wish to be called Christians, but Jesuits, as they venerate Jesus of Nazareth, but cannot acknowledge him as the promised Christ. A very superficial and materialistic periodical, the "Daybreak," looking on the new doctrine as on the dawn of a new and happy day, arising to dispel the twilight of ancient Christianity, represents the extreme left of the modern theology among the laity, who, it says, will follow its banner till a more modern doctrine follows and takes the place of the former. Still these all, however numerous, are not more than exceptions. The great majority of the community, the aristocracy, the commons, the mass of the people, hold fast to the Word of God. Things are really not so desperate as they look on a superficial review. The heart of the true Church will not abjure its liege Lord Jesus Christ, and He, the true Pastor, will never forsake His flock. We may feel sure that His power will overcome the present dangers too, and that out of this evil itself further good will arise to the benefit of His everlasting kingdom: Nebula est, et transibit; but even this threatening thundercloud will, we hope, not pass without falling in a salutary rain, that will fertilize the soil of the Church.

Missionary.

India. Superstition replaced by Infidelity.—A missionary of the Irish Presbyterian Church in India writes: "In many minds, especially of those who consider themselves of the advancing party, Hindu superstition is giving way. They not only do not defend, but openly ridicule the reign of their fathers. But it has given place only to infidelity of the Voltarian style. I never in my life heard before such rank and barefaced assertions about miracles, revelation,

&c. Infidelity in this country is a far grosser thing than in Europe. With no knowledge of general history, or even dream of an adverse argument, the crude dogmas taken up develop into more monstrous notions. The old superstition is not a worse caricature of religion than what is now pretended to be held as enlightened reason is of the true light of reason. So much for that boasted neutrality, carefully eliminating the last traces of Christianity from the Government school book, so that even the hymn for children, 'How doth the little busy bee, &c., of Watts, is too Christian to stand as the author wrote it. To teach young Hindus that 'Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do,' would be to interfere with their religion. It must be changed so as to omit the word Satan."

Rev. John Robson of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, one of the most intelligent and large-minded of Foreign missionaries, writes of his preaching tours in the same country: "Our addresses were attentively and intelligently listened to. One old Brahmin remarked at the close of one of them, 'These are very important and wonderful facts which you tell us of, but you cannot expect us to decide on them in a day. The English rule has been here for a generation, but none of us have till to-day heard of any other Saviour than Ram or Krishna.' When there was any discussion, it was generally on the favorite argument of the Hindus, that the powerful can do no wrong. They eliminate the idea of holiness from their ideas of God, and are willing to bow before a strong benefactor. It was of little avail to argue that we reprobated men who did bad deeds; the performer of such acts, as Krishna, was not to be judged by the same law as ordinary mortals. I found very frequent evidences in their discussions of an idea which, I have often heard, is current in Hindustan, that we English are the tenth incarnation of Vishnu."

The Christian Vernacular Education Society for India has decided to establish a training institution for native Christian teachers in Western India. The funds have been raised in Glasgow. The institution is to be located in the heart of a Presbyterian Mission. It will, however, be open to students from all Missions.

China.—Missionaries in Peking.—The Chinese capital appears at length to be fully open to the operations of Protestant missions. The Church Missionary and Propagation Societies, the London Missionary Society, the English Presbyterian Mission, and the American Presbyterian Board, are all represented at Peking. Three of the Missionaries are accompanied by their wives. "The largest personal liberty," writes one of the brethren, "is enjoyed by residents here, and the presence of foreign women does not appear in the least to have disturbed the peace of the capital." The Rev. Joseph Elkins, of the London Society, has established a small preaching-station in a populous part of the city, and a day-school in another.

AFRICA.—Kaffraria.—The Free Church of Scotland has four principal stations in British Kaffraria, the most important of which is Lovedale. A minister who has visited this station, reports that on two occasions, separated by an interval of three months, there had been admissions to the Church by baptism, numbering in the one case fourteen adults and six children, and in the other twenty adults. From another part of Kaffraria—Emgwali where there is a United Presbyterian Mission—the Rev. Messrs. Soga and Chalmers write that they had, on the previous communion Sabbath, admitted to the Lord's table twenty persons—the largest accession to the membership of the Church ever witnessed there since the station was founded. Of these, two were baptized in infancy; one was a relapsed member, the remaining seventeen were converts from heathenism.—Evangelical Christendom.

The United Presbyterians, on the 8th of February, detached Mr. Chalmers, from the Emgwali to establish a new mission on the upper Thomas River. He has been cordially received by the Natives.

Madagascar. The Christians continue to increase in a manner truly gratifying—almost astonishing, writes the Rev. W. Ellis. Fresh adherents to the Gospel, from the ranks of those who have followed the idols, take place every month. I am connected with two of the churches, and last Sunday forty were added to those two by baptism—eighteen at one place, and twenty-two at the other; and last night, at our church meeting of Ambotankanga, I admitted to our fellowship sixteen or eighteen, including four couples, man and wife, some of them from villages devoted to idols, and hitherto occupied by none but idol worshippers. Says another: With regard to the prospects of the mission among the people, nothing can be more encouraging. The five chapels are crowded every Sunday, and two more are in course of erection. Both adults and children are eager for knowledge, and there is perfect liberty of action. A very large population in villages around the capital are ready for the Gospel, for heathenism here seems never to have had that all-absorbing power and influence which most systems of idolatry have. As far as I can see, there is little to be displaced by the Gospel, except the natural enmity of the human heart; and I believe it is welcomed as a bright revealer of certainties in place of the shadowy vagueness of their fearful belief. A hospital is to be erected in connection with the medical mission, conducted by Dr. Davidson, the government having already granted a piece of ground for the purpose. That gentleman, during last year, prescribed for three thousand patients; and tens of thousands have sought relief, to whom it was impossible but he could attend.

POLYNESIA. The liberality shown by

the native converts in Fiji on occasion of their last annual missionary meetings has delighted, and in some instances astonished the Wesleyan missionaries. We hear of one place (Lakemba) where 1,810 gallons of oil were contributed, being nearly 1,000 gallons in excess of last year; of a second (Mualu) where the contributions would amount to 2,000 gallons, just double the quantity given the previous year; and a third (Vanua Balavu) which has increased its contributions for the current year by four tons and a half. "And still we are hearing of increase," writes a missionary. "Our great difficulty has been the few tanks and drums we have had." The statistics of Wesleyan Missions in the South Seas are: Chapels 634, besides upwards of 300 other preaching places; missionaries and assistant missionaries, 81; catechists, 244; church members, 23,349; day scholars, upwards of 43,000; and attendants on public worship, upwards of 99,800.

A trophy of divine grace among the Fijians. A man who had murdered his wife, and had been a terror on account of his extreme cruelty even among his fellow-heathen, was so changed by the power of the Gospel, that he became an object of love to all who know him. When dying, some dissolute young men entered his hut, and he addressed them in words which remind us of the expiring utterances of Addison and Haywood. "It is well," he said, "that you have come; you will now see how a Christian can die. Look at me; my body is weak, I shall soon die; but I am not afraid. Why should I be afraid? My soul lives, and death cannot hurt that." He then fell back exhausted, and in a few minutes breathed his last.

From Micronesia, we learn that the King of Kussie, who had long been giving himself up to heathenish songs and dances, treating the Christians not only with contempt, but with gross injustice, and appearing as if he might soon lay violent hands upon them, and "blot out the very names of missionary and God from the Island," suddenly fell dead on the Sabbath, upon land which he had violently taken from some of the Christians, while directing his men how to cultivate for himself. During the last great annual heathen festival, in which all the Islands of this group take part, the missionaries were absent from Kussie. The native Christians, of their own accord, observed the day as one of prayer and supplication for their benighted fellow-countrymen.

Proceedings of Missionary Societies.—The Foreign Mission collections of the Free Church of Scotland, for the year ending the 15th March, amounted to £11,034—being £560 in advance of last year. The Foreign Mission Collections of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, for the year just closed, amounted £19,624; Home Mission £7,162. The annual report gives the following summary:

Thus we have had for the year 1863, perspective of Australia, France, and Belgium, seven separate mission fields; namely, Jamaica, [four Presbyteries,] Trinidad, Old Calabar, Algiers, Aleppo, Rajpootana, and China, including 45 stations and 85 day schools, which have been conducted by 40 ordained European missionaries, 4 medical missionaries, 8 native evangelists, 14 European teachers, and 79 native teachers, or an educated agency of 150 persons. 416 Adults have been admitted to the church for the first time, and about 5000 children are getting in our schools a useful and scriptural education. Three new churches have been formed—one at Beaur in India, one at Aleppo in Syria, and one at Ikorofong in Old Calabar; and two new stations have been opened—one at Todgurb in the Mairwara hills, and one at the Thomas River in British Caffraria. According to the computation of the Christian Work for June; the contributions of various Foreign Missionary Societies holding their anniversaries during the month of May in London amount to a total of 618,845 pounds, or \$2,600,000.

ZEAL OF YOUTHFUL CONVERTS IN TURKEY.

We commend to our young readers the following deeply interesting account, from a missionary of the American Board at Kharpoot in Eastern Turkey. It shows what can be done even by boys who are in earnest and who seek help from above. Such an example, from the recently benighted Armenians, is well calculated to arrest the attention of the young who have enjoyed all the advantages of an education in a Christian country.

In Hoghi, even the boys in the school have an evangelical society. On Saturdays they meet by themselves, have prayers and singing, and the reading of a tract. The next day they go out two and two, to the houses of the Armenians, among those who never come to the chapel, and ask the privilege of reading a chapter from the New Testament. This is seldom if ever refused. As they are children, they find a hearing often when older persons would not. Sometimes, too, they close with prayer. This on the whole, interests and pleases some who might be expected to oppose. One man, who has been very indifferently if not an actual opposer, was a good deal awakened by hearing one of the smallest of these boys, on his return from school, talk to some wicked boys in the street for their mischief. He reminded them that God saw them and was angry, and would enter into judgment with them. The man, who was near and listening, felt his slumbering conscience aroused, and at once began to examine the Scriptures with reference to his duty.

God will not take us into heaven, into our heads and hearts seeking with thoughts and affections of earthly things. Man shall not be clothed with glory, as it were, whether they will or no.—Owen.

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