

Miscellaneous.

GILFILLIAN'S ASSAULT ON CALVIN, AND REPLY OF MR. BAYNE IN THE WEEKLY REVIEW.

Rev. George Gilfillan, considerably known and perhaps respected in this country as a bold writer, famous for a certain anathematic brilliancy and for sweeping verdicts of criticism, is a minister of the United Presbyterian Church of Dundee, Scotland.

We copy, as a curiosity, from the Weekly Review the summary of the positions of this remarkable discourse, and append a portion of the admirable and conclusive reply of the Reviewer.

In the course of a sermon on Sunday afternoon, in his own church, at Dundee, on the words—"Call no man father on earth," Mr. George Gilfillan alluded to the influence of Reformers. These had been, in his judgment, the most ill-used of all, inasmuch as during their lifetime their bodies narrowly escaped feeding the flames, and after death their fame had been nearly effaced with rancid incense.

The copy of the Weekly Review, is in part, as follows: Let us look at Mr. Gilfillan's specifications of facts. "One James Gruet, for writing loose verses, was beheaded."

Our admiration for Shakespeare is perhaps as cordial as Mr. Gilfillan's. But we own ourselves surprised to find a minister of the Gospel presenting Shakespeare as "a Christian of the noblest grain."

WHITEFIELD spent days and weeks prostrate on the ground in silent or vocal prayer. He interceded with God for souls, then pleading with souls for God.

in which he is but the mouthpiece of his time, is the first problem for the biographer and the historian. Unless you have some skill in solving that problem, you will find the portrait gallery of the past crowded with impossibilities in human shape, with angels or with devils, not with men.

Mr. Gilfillan wants to know what Calvin thought of the gifts of God in nature, he has but to read the 10th Chapter of the 3d Book of the "Christian Institutes," on the use that ought to be made of the present life and its advantages.

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MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

The following paper adopted and we believe directed to be read in the churches, by the late General Assembly at Newark, is earnestly commended to the notice of all our sessions and congregations.

BELOVED BRETHREN.—We have, on various occasions, addressed our churches on the subject of providing an adequate support for the ministers of the gospel; and are happy to know that this obligation has been generally recognized in our communion.

Under ordinary circumstances, it might have been superfluous to advert to the subject again, but the calamitous war, which has been so recklessly and causelessly forced upon our country by unscrupulous and wicked men, bringing with it so many new duties, trials, and sorrows and affecting in various ways the vital interests of the Church, is telling with extreme severity upon the comfort and usefulness of the Christian ministry.

We have, however, reason to fear that up to this period, with some rare and honorable exceptions, the claims of the ministry have been overlooked. The salaries of pastors, always small, always much less than they could have earned in secular pursuits, and too often insufficient for even a meagre support, remain, in a large majority of cases, stationary, while the price of living has been advanced fully fifty per cent.

It is with this view, beloved brethren, that we address this letter to you, the respected ruling elders and trustees of our churches. We ask you to bring the subject before your respective congregations with the least possible delay.

It appears that some gentlemen in her Majesty's service, during explorations in a very wild part of our North American possessions, were struck with the pertinacity with which immense flocks of wild fowl and other game hunted certain localities.

CHURCHES.—The Church of North Fork, at Roseville, Vermillion County, Ill., which has for many years been under the care of Rev. E. Kingsbury, has within the past year more than doubled its membership, and promises well for the future.

ACCURATE GEOGRAPHY.—The London Times of May 21st informs its readers, under the head of American intelligence, that Gen. Lee had left his dead and wounded on the field at Buffalo, and was advancing in two columns on Richmond.

nations that have perished from the earth. How is it possible to produce these blessed results, so dear to the heart of every Christian, of every true patriot, unless we maintain the Christian ministry, and the ordinances of the Gospel in a condition of the highest practicable efficiency?—and how can that be done without an adequate support of the ministry?

We leave the matter in your hands, dear brethren, satisfied that you will deal with it in a spirit of Christian kindness to your pastors and of unfeigned love to our common Lord and Master.

MISSIONARY ITEMS. REV. JOHN ROBSON, the talented missionary of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland in India, gives the following interesting account of an interview had by himself and helper with the natives: "The mysterious power of the English was referred to at the close of the meeting. Khan Singh had been addressing them, and had with his usual power and eloquence, drawn a picture of the benefits of salvation, and of the happiness of those who could obtain it.

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