

THE RELIGIOUS WORLD ABROAD.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

GREAT BRITAIN.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.—The prosector in the celebrated Cardross case, McMillan by name, on the 8th of January withdrew the case from Court. It had already been decided that the General Assembly of the Free Church could not sue or be sued, and that the spiritual sentence of a church cannot as such be reviewed or repealed by a civil court.

In the English Synod, which met in April, a large committee was appointed to confer with the committees on union of the Free, United, and other undivided Presbyterian bodies, to report to the next Synod.

PRESBYTERIAN ITEMS.—By the death of William Brownlie, February 14th, the English Presbyterian Church became heir to a legacy of £25,000, for the benefit of the college.

THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.—This has been a year of great agitation in the Established Church of England. There have been clamors for and against changes in her articles, her creed, her liturgy, her burial service, and her terms of subscription among her own members.

A commission, at the head of which is the Archbishop of Canterbury, was appointed by the Queen, early in the year, to revise the terms of subscription required of the clergy. On the 28th of April, Lord Ebury, of this commission, announced as one of the results of his labors that the days and even the hours of "unassigned assent and consent" were numbered.

Beyond all question the most serious event of the year in England was the decision rendered by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the highest Ecclesiastical Court of the Established Church, restoring Dr. Wilson and Mr. Williams, writers of leading articles in the Essays and Reviews, to their honors, functions, and emoluments as clergymen of the Established Church, from which they had been suspended for one year by the Court of Arches, on the ground of the clear heretical tendency of their teachings in these volumes.

The decision was followed by a protest and declaration, drawn up by a committee of whom Dr. Pusey was one, appointed at a meeting held in Oxford, February 25th. The declaration is very brief, and expresses the firm belief of the signers that "the Church of England and Ireland maintains, without reserve or qualification," the orthodox views of inspiration and eternal punishment.

the committee appointed to examine them. The Bishop of London and Dean Stanley were most conspicuous in their opposition to the vote of condemnation, which was decisive. This decision was afterwards, in August, made a topic of earnest debate in the House of Lords, in which the lord-chancellor spoke of it as an attempt to impugn the headship of the Queen in matters spiritual.

Evidence that the leaven of Romanism is working in the Church of England side by side with tendencies just the reverse is not wanting. There is a fraternity at Norwich of Anglican monks who recently made a profession to a "holy" well, in medieval style, and Rev. W. Lyne, or rather, Ignatius, the founder of the order, appeared in public in the peculiar garb of the brotherhood, haranguing the people, and, strange to say, wins their applause.

ITEMS.—A deputation of the Irish Presbyterian Church, January 21st, waited on the Lord Lieutenant to bespeak his interest in procuring an increase from £75 to £100 (Irish) on the Exemption Donum, a royal grant to Irish Presbyterian Ministers.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S FUND, which was to be half a million dollars a year for ten years, and to be devoted to the evangelization of the city in various ways, has scarcely risen to the point anticipated. In March, less than one hundred thousand pounds had been obtained. In April considerable additions were received. July 31, £75,000 had been paid. Nearly one million people who can go to church need to be provided for in London.

FRANCE. Roman's Life of Jesus has brought out many able replies from Protestants and Papists, among the former, that of De Pressense, among the latter, that of the Bishop of Arras, deserves special mention. Attention has been so generally turned to the study of the Life of Christ, that the evil done by such works as those of Renan, Strauss, and Scherke, may be viewed as more than balanced by the deeper acquaintance which the Christian community has generally attained of the character of the Redeemer.

RUSSIA. The mass and sacraments of the Greek Church are allowed to be celebrated in German in the Baltic provinces. A Russian translation of the New Testament, under imperial sanction, is for sale at a low price. The Emperor is exerting himself to improve the condition of the clergy, and to educate the emancipated serfs.

TURKEY. July 17th, the Turkish authorities suddenly seized and threw into prison all the converted Turks that could be found, and on the next day held all the Missionary and Bible establishments with an armed force. The next day they were opened, but the guards were not withdrawn. The Government seems determined to put a stop to the evangelical movement among the Turks, which had begun to assume very hopeful proportions.

GENEVA. DR. MALAN died in Geneva May 8th, aged 67 years. Many Romish priests in the south of Switzerland have abandoned Rome, and are preaching a pure gospel to their people. A Sabbath reform movement of great power and remarkably well systematized, has commenced in Geneva. In August, the radical party in the city, which has been hostile to

all reasonable restraints such as Christian and civilized communities consider necessary to put upon vice and immorality, after having governed the city by the aid of Roman Catholic influence for several years, were defeated at a municipal election. Whereupon, under the lead of their bold but able chief, James Fazy, they broke out into open and murderous riot. Swiss was restored by the troops of the Old Confederation, and Fazy fled.

ITALY.

This deeply interesting and awakening country, so long the centre and stronghold of Popish superstition and ecclesiastical and civil despotism, is presenting a most promising field for evangelical labor. Laborers from America and Scotland are prominent in the work. The Waldensian body, with native independent workers like Gavazzi, seem to be providentially in the best position to evangelize the people, though they need our material support and guidance.

CHINA. A whole village, near Amoy, was reported Christianized in the fall of 1863, by the labors of converted natives. Nearly one-third of the whole number of converts in China, now estimated at 2,500, are at and around Amoy. One of the churches of native converts in Amoy lately suspended a member for worldliness.

SOUTH AMERICA. The destruction of the Roman Catholic Church in Santiago, when 2,000 females perished, took place December 8th, 1863, but the whole civilized world was shocked and aroused by the announcement of the event about the first of the year.

MISSIONARY. AMERICAN BOARD.—At the commencement of the year, the Herald reported 345 American laborers in the field, fifty-five less than ten years ago; and 737 native laborers, or nearly double the number ten years previously. Liberty is becoming characteristic of churches formed of converted heathen.

ROMANISM. EVERY POWER now visibly growing is either anti-Papal, or based upon principles which are fatal to ultramontane authority. The great Catholic nations, so far from advancing, have declined, until, with the exception of France, they are scarcely living influences.

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Medicinal. AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL. FOR THE RAPID CURE OF Coughs, Colds, Influenza, Hoarseness, Croup, Bronchitis, Incipient Consumption, and for the relief of Consumptive Patients in the advanced stages of the disease. So wide is the field of its usefulness and so numerous are the cases of its cure, that it is almost everywhere known and highly valued. It is a safe and reliable remedy, and its use is attended with no danger to the lungs or other organs. It is a most valuable remedy for the relief of the distressed and suffering, and its use is attended with no danger to the lungs or other organs.

Richardson Air-tight Casket. The undersigned would respectfully inform the bereaved who may require his services, that he is prepared to furnish the Richardson Premium Circular Air-tight Casket, by means of which, in our hands, he guarantees the removal of the remains of the deceased from the grave on the battle-field (no matter how long the time) to the family burying grounds, free from disagreeable odor, or to change for the casket, at one-third the cost of the original one. The caskets will be furnished at very low rates with Coffins, Cases and Caskets of every style and size, as well as private family vaults, in the most perfect manner, and to the entire satisfaction of the parties applying, or no charge will be made. JOHN GOOD, Undertaker, 909-1m 921 SPRUCE STREET.

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