REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

FOREIGN.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The question of a Presbyterian Union, heretofore agitated, came up for discussion in the meetings of the unendowed Presbyterian bodies in Scotland, and also in the two Presbyterian Synods in England-the United and the English Presbyterian. The former maintains ecclesiastical relations with its namesake in Scotland, and receives from it aid for its feeble churches; the last is a purely English organization. In both countries the issue of the discussion, thus far, has been about the same as in the case of Presbyterian reunion in this country, viz; : an improvement in the spirit of fraternity, with no visible approach to organic reunion. The progress of Presbyterianism throughout the empire has been very considerable, evidence of which may be found in the statistics of an article in our last

week's issue. 🧨 We notice, with less satisfaction, a growing decline in the character of that branch known as the " Church of Scotland." This is a State establishment-the same from which the Free Church seceded when the civil authority interfered with its discipline. In several of its congregations the worship has degenerated into a ritualism, making as near an approach as the laws of the Church will allow, to that which, in the English Church, is known by the name of Pusevism. These innovations upon that non-Popish simplicity of service, which was once the glory of the Kirk, are on the increase, and great alarm is felt in view of the prospect of their corrupting the entire establishment.

The Church of England is still surging with agitations of the broad church movement. The question is yet unsettled, whether the prelatical ecclesiasticism, and the liturgical precisions of mode and doctrine, which have been vaunted as the bulwark of orthodoxy, and the impregnable defence of the faith, are not, after all, to become the refuge of the most dangerous infidelity of the age. All the efforts to procure the deposition of Bishop Colenso have finally failed, and he remains a mitred prelate of the establishment, living in England some thousands of miles from his colonial diocese, enjoying his Episcopal revenue, and using it for printing and circulating books meant to prove that the Bible is not of perfect Divine inspiration, and that it contains many untrue statements The consequence of this immunity is just what might have been expected. That Church, both in its presbytery and its episcopate, contains only too many whose love has been divided between their heretical proclivities and their church revenues, and now that these cease to conflict, their influence against the faith has quickened into open activity.

In this connection, great anxiety is felt concerning the effects of the change in the premiership. The views of the head of the government are, of course, felt in the character of the episcopate. Since the present agitations assumed their importance. Lord Palmerston, in every instance, we believe, filled the vacant sees with men of reliable orthodoxy, and some amount of evangelical character. It is claimed for Earl Russell, that he will preserve the same care for the purity of the Church. Thus far, nothing has occurred to develope his official course on the subject. One of the most interesting views of the religious state of Great Britain during the year, is contained in those evangelistic and revival labors which we have, from time to time recorded, such as those of Richard Weaver in Glasgow, Aberdeen, and other Scottish towns, Joshua Poole in various parts of England, and many others who, in both kingdoms, have given their labor with signal success, to this form of soulsaving work. They have in the main, though by no means exclusively, preached the gospel to the poor; have followed up fairs, marketings, and public gatherings generally, established book-stalls, erected stands for preaching, held open-air protracted meetings, and the cases are few in which it has not been true that more or less who "came to scoff, returned to pray." The work is now under the auspices of an organized association, with its headquarters in London. In that city chapels are being erected in neglected districts, for its labor ers. Its principles are non-denominational. but evangelical. One of its strong points for efficiency is that of lay effort.

applied for admission to the Free Church, | long the centre of the darkest superstition | hood, and the clergy have tried their usual with the remark that he would not be less and religious corruption. The Waldensian arts to identify the life of religious intoler-Huguenot than his fathers. The chief pas- | Synod is spreading itself over the kingdom, | ance with that of the throne, but thus far tor of the National Reformed Church is M. and has transferred its theological school they have been more than thwarted-have Coquerel, one of the most brilliant, and at from its native vallies to Florence. Our in fact been snubbed. It would not be Nathe same time most unsafe, of the Protest-American and Foreign Christian Union, poleonic, in the attempt to usurp an empire, with principal stations in Florence and and then make it popular, in a country but ant clergy of France. The engagement of one of his colleagues, Martin Paschoud. a | Milan, each under the care of an efficient | a stone's throw from the United States, to American superintendent, is doing a great | tie it to the rotten carcass of the unmitiviolent rationalist, expired last spring. The character of the newly-elected Council forwork by dispersing through the towns pious | gated Papacy. Mexico, imperial or repuband qualified Italians, with speech and lican, is on the high road to religious bid his reappointment, and also destroyed printed truth, as evangelists and colpor- change. Under proper efforts that change the prospect of another candidate of, like teurs. Our recent accounts of them are will be one of evangelical and spiritual reproclivities, who was in vain backed with from Sarteano, Cetona, Citta della Pieve, form. Even amid the present political conthe whole influence of the chief pastor. The majority is resolute, and may yet carry Eddo, Leces, Bergamo, Carpignano, the vulsions, it is an open and promising field the point of securing a sanctified pulpit. Valtellina, and other places, in most of for such effort. which the progress of evangelical truth is GERMANY,

encouraging The Wesleyans and some other religious bodies are also in the field. In some of the German States there is

spiritual progress, almost invisible when THE PAPAL GOVERNMENT, beheld along with the aggregate mass of Although the far-fumed Papal "Encycli-German religion, but conspicuous when cal" was a few days in advance of the last singled out and exhibited by itself. There new year, yet the history of its reception are on the field some sixty or seventy Bapbelongs to the present review. It is probatist churches, and a smaller number of bly the most suicidal act of the papacy, Methodist, portions of which have, during the year, enjoyed revivals, as spiritual in which has astounded the world since the their character as those which we are accusreformation, renouncing in the most extomed to see in our country. We have replicit terms, all the excuses which the corded several cases of these, particularly namby-pamby apologists for Rome, in this and other Protestant countries, make for The incubus upon the religion of Ger-Romanism, that its intolerance and its many, is the non-evangelical character of claim that the civil power shall crush herethe Lutheran Church, and the fact that, in sy, were the errors of the past age, and not the Protestant States, it is the State of the system. In this encylical the Pope Church, controlled by the civil power, even | anathematized in terms several of the reto the extent of appointments to the Gospel ligious doctrines of the times. One is that ministry, together with the almost entire "the best condition of society is that in absence of denominationalism. With the which the power of the laity is not comworking for the spirit and the truth. comparatively little exception above named, pelled to inflict the penalties of law upon the Lutheran Church feels no disturbance, violators of the Catholic religion." Another and no excitement from the presence and is, that "liberty of conscience and of worrivalry of any denomination based upon the

come an interesting missionary field of the American and Foreign Christian Union. A ship is the right of every man, a right good work is going forward in Carthagena, which ought to be proclaimed and estabinder the direction of Rev. R Montsallished by law in every well constituted vatge. Romarism has become the disgust State." Another is, that "the church can of the people, and, as in all such cases of decide nothing which may bind the conreaction from a dead faith, the question lies sciences of the faithful in temporal things." between a vitalevangelicism and an utter Still another is, that "the judgments and discarding of religion. Good work is going decrees of the Holy See, whose object is on with the young, and, with the blessing declared to concern the general welfare of of God, nothing but workers and working the church, its rights and its discipline, do material seem necessary for a reformation not claim the acquiescence and obedience, whose influence shall be wide. under pain of sin and loss of the Catholic profession, if they do not treat of the dog-OTHER COUNTRIES. mas of faith and manners"-in other words.

a Catholic, say, for example, a Catholic portions of the world. sovereign, canuot be rightfully degraded from his Catholic profession by excommunication, for rendering aid to Victor Eman-

uel, the political enemy of the Pope, so long as he is not guilty of heresy in doctrine or immoralities of conduct.

Sabbath-school system of effort for resusici-In such countries as England and our own, tating the dead Christianity of continental all this, of course, passed for brutum fulmen. Europe. Dr. Philip Schaff has also, during Its real design was, by alarming the relithe past season largely improved the opporgious sensibilities of the bigoted portion of tunity of a visit to bis native country, by detheir subjects, to check the liberalizing livering addresses on the Sabbath school tendencies of the Catholic princes of Eusystem of instruction, and promoting their rope, such as the sovereigns of Austria, Spain, Portugal, and above all Louis Napoleon. The thing was so understood in all those sovereignties, but, while it was During the last spring, the negotiations

The Turkish government has given remet by a storm of popular contempt, it senewed assurances of the liberty of Mahombetween the Italian government and the cured no responsive action from one of medans to change their religion, and also Pope concerning the appointment of Italian those governments. Its only effect has been that there shall be perfect religious freedom as between the Armenians and the Protest-Bishops, were broken off. The Pope perto settle the point, by the supreme spirit-ual authority, that the Church of Rome is sisted in refusing to give Bishops to Italian ant sects in all parts of the empire. Still steadfast in the doctrine that civil governdioceses, upon any other condition than that the work of persecution goes on Under ments all over the world should enslave of non-allegiance to the civil government, one pretext or another. converted Mahomthemselves to the Papacy, enforcing its demedans are bandied about under legal proand freedom from all responsibility except crees with the full strength of their power, cesses Provincial officers adopt all manthough it should light up every hill in to himself. The king insisted that every ner of modes to oppress Protestants, and ecclesiastical functionary in the kingdom Christendom with the fires of burning heretics.

MEXICO.

Bible in the common language, and the

marriage of the clergy. There, as in other

Catholic countries, Romanism unsettles

itself, through the inability of the Pope to

forget that the time has passed when his

With the exception, perhaps, of Italy and



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FRANCE.

The Encyclical Letter of the Pope, which will be further noticed under the proper heading, has, for the time at least, upset the Ultramontane, that is the implacably Catholic influence in the French Church. The majority of its people are now well disposed to see the termination of lies in the nature of reform to become more the temporal dominion of Pio Ninus, and of radical the longer it is balked, and these course the entire with drawal of the French terms may be regared as the ultimatum of military protection of that power. A still the Italian church. They will of course more remarkable and reactionary result is | meet with the ever obtruding "non posthe newly awakened liberalizing tendency in the Gallican party in the church. Even the Archbishop of Paris has uttered sentiments of fraternity toward the Protestant Church, and expressed the conviction that there were points open for common effort for conserving and promoting the Christian interests of the empire.

The National Reformed Church of France, supported by the government, has | erals and radical liberals, both of which are passed through some storms, of the same character with those of the few previous years. The strife is between a living ortory to Italy. thodoxy, and the semi-infidelity of ritual-

ism. In the last election of members of its Presbyterial Council, the evangelical party secured a triumph-no feature of there will be, in the technical sense of the Orestes, stepped forward to his place, and which was more gratifying than that of the term, no public change of religion. In works boldy, earnestly, and with no little return of M. Guizot-but by so small a majority as to inspire the other side to fresh effort, rather than damp their hopes. One discouraging circumstance for the evangelithe Romish church. But unless some cal element in this Church, is the existence political movive starts up for stringency, by its side of an unendowed Free Church, defections from that church will be treated which is kept scrupulously free from ra- with indifference, and the time will hasten,

tionalistic taint, and to which the best if it has not now come, when the real remembers of the former, wearied with their ligious struggle in Italy will be that becontests for the purity of the faith, are tween a pure evangelical faith and utter pected shelter under the empire. The every now and then passing over. As an godlessness. The moral certainty that such Pope has appealed imploringly to Maxi- or faithfulness, as some well-meaning example, we may state the case of one man an issue is not far distant hat such Pope has appealed imploringly to Maxi- or faithfulness, as some well-meaning and example, we may state the case of one man an issue is not far distant, has prompted an milian to take religious errors in hand, and zealots suppose, but indiscretion and of note who, seceding from the Reformed active missionary comparison is it.

should take the oath of civil allegiance to his own government, maintaining only his Meanwhile the French Emperor persists spiritual relations with Rome. Of course in his purpose of carrying out the Francono arrangement was made, and as the Pope Italian treaty, and withdrawing all military is not in circumstances to proceed to exis not in circumstances to proceed to ex-tremes, the ecclesiasticism of the kingdom drawal of French troops from Rome has lies at loose ends. In the meantime, the commenced, and will be completed next demands of the Italians upon the papacy fall, unless some now unforseen eccentricity in the policy of that strange man shall rehave assumed a definite shape, and now veal itself. There is much speculation stand as follows :---

in Bremen and portions of Saxony.

principle of spiritual regeneration and an

orthodox faith. It goes on preaching that

baptism regenerates, confirmation estab-lishes the claim to the Christian name, the

Sacraments convey grace, and then, so far

as any care for the doctrines of the pulpit

is concerned, all that is left is the prey of

rationalism. There are not wanting pious

pastors, some of them eminent, and deserv-

edly of world-wide reputation, but, in the

Diet, they are borne down and overwhelmed.

There are not wanting pious people, who mourp for the incoming of the Spirit and

the truth, but the masses, when asked if

they are Christians, revert to their baptism,

confirmation and communion, and answer

Yes; when asked if they believe in the

The American and Foreign Christian

Union is now on that field, with its new

start in Stuttgart, Berlin, and elsewhere.

ITALY.

Bible, they answer No.

1. That the laity must recover the right concerning the next probable resort of Anof choosing their ministers, and of administonelli for the protection of the Papal throne. It is most likely that troops will tering the temporal concerns of the church. 2. The Bishops must be chosen by the have to be raised from the States of the clergy and the congregations, without Church. prejudice to the rights of the crown. 3. Bishops and Metropolitans must be reinstat-

ed in their ancient positions as Diocesans and Provincials, the present servile depend-Spain, Mexico has hitherto been the most ence on Rome, and all oaths of vassalage thoroughly priest ridden country in the to her ceasing. 4. The celibacy of the world. The events of the year have gone clergy must be a matter for their own far towards forwarding the reformation, choice and determination. 5. The laity inaugurated in 1857, when the triumph of must have unrestricted liberty to read the Holy Scriptures. 6. The liturgy must be Ayutta secured legal liberty of conscience, read in the national tongue, and in a form speech and worship, and more than a hunintelligible to all. 7. Confession must be dred priests, assembled in formal council in

no longer obligatory, but voluntary, and the city of Mexico, repudiated the Pope. the communion must be received in both | and proclaimed the free reading of the kinds. They go further. They are determined to break to pieces the papal desputism, restore the primitive condition of the church, and bring about a good understanding between the clergy and laity.

ecclesiastics may intermeddle with, and An earlier arrangement might have been accomplished with less of concession, but it control tor his use, the political power of the State. Romanism, though likely for a time to remain the nominal religion of Mexico, is disarming itself of power through the two facts that the world will move, while Popish obstinacy will not. sumus" of the papacy, and so hasten the

As between the two powers contending for the Government of Mexico, the reforgreat religious crisis of Southern Europe. In the late election of members for the mation has most to hope from the Repub-Italian House of Deputies, the papal party lic. Its leader, Juarez, formerly gave his brought its entire strength into the canvass. sanction to the reform movement, by com-The result was that it secured about a dozen missioning the Presbyter, Juan Diaz Marmembers in a house of four hundred and tinez to incite the priests throughout forty-four. The remainder are divided be-Mexico, to teach the people that evangelitween two other parties, conservative libcal Christianity requires submission to lawful government. His work was cut short opposed to the temporal power of the Pope, by a cup of poison from the hand of a and in favor of the annexation of his terrisecret agent of the hierarchy. The dose was not fatal, but by its permanent effect This state of things has the effect of upon the brain, it disqualified him for serdestroying the moral influence of Romanvice. An energetic and able fellow laborer, ismover the Italian people. For the present the Presbyter Juan Nepomuceno Enriquez other words, the government and the success. Just now he is in this country, people, to a considerable extent, will keep addressing churches, and securing symup an outward observance of the services of

pathy and help. Those who may have the privilege of hearing him, will obtain as good an account of the religious state of Mexico, as can now be had.

But while the Republican influences are strongly in favor of a religious reformation, the old bigotry has not yet found its ex-

when complained of and removed, it is only to give place to others who are equally truculent to the Armenian bishops. Still the Gospel has its triumphs in many parts of the Turkish dominions. If it has not free course," it certainly is "glorified." The general history of foreign missions is decidedly encouraging. Some long discouraging fields are at length putting on the aspect of hope. This is especially the case with the African missions sustained by the American and Presbyterian boards. In China, the features of the piety of the con-

verted Chinese are becoming more distinct and in the same proportion, their Christian influence is more impressive. We believe that every evangelical missionary society which has missions in that empire, counts the last year as one of decided progress there.

Bishop Staley, who was sent out from England to found an Anglican Church Episcopate in the Sandwich Islands, upon the pretence that the American Missions there had proved a failure, seems to have found his diocese a "hard road to travel." He secured the ear of the throne, and obtained the queen as a communicant in his semi-Romish establishment. He has also succeeded in making himself an annovance to the American laborers, and this is about all. The Christian islanders, in general, do not yet forget that the evangelizing of the islands is, under God, due to the patient and laborious services of the missionaries of the American Board, neither do they comprehend the dogma of "no bishop, no church." Worse than all, the Bishop, after trying the clap-trap of Queen Emma's visit to England, seems still to fail of support there, doubtless owing to the fact that English Christians do not care to partake of the responsibility of this stupendous raid upon an unoffending and well-worked American field. The whole enterprise,

from stem to stern, is unpopular in that country. The Bishop turned at last to this country for help, visited the late Episcopal Triennial Convention, circulated about the country delivering addresses, and everywhere told of the miserable unchurched state in which the American missionaries had brought up the Sandwich Islanders. He wanted money and men. We know nothing of his success in the former: the latter amounted to the carrying off to his bishopric one Presbyter of the Church, a brother of Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, who is already returning to our shores, the papers say, in disgust.

IT is a great part of our "wisdom toward them that are without." so to explain our meaning in every doctrine and ordinance, and so to guard our discourses about them, as may best pre-

vent misapprehension or prejudice ; and the neglect of this rule is not boldness.

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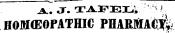
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