GREAT BRITAIN. Within the Church of England, a definite step has been taken toward the employment of Lay Agency in public spiritual efforts. Dr. Hale, the Archdeacon of London, has undertaken to receive the names of gentlemen willing to enter upon the serthe Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Bishop of London. The desire of the last named prelate for the inauguration of such an enterprise has, for some time past, been well understood. The precise ecclesiastical relation of these contemplated lay workers is not yet determined. Archdeacon Hale explains their duty as consisting chiefly in assisting the ordained minis-

ters, but he acknowledges a difficulty in the question of what authority shall be committed to them. It is not likely the difficulty will be very serious, even if not first built expressly for Protestant worship soon as a new building now going up is Church. settled by the programme. Practice some- by the Paris municipality, on the 3d of ready for occupation. times shapes a system better than a prearranged plan would do it A number of querel are joint pastors of this church—the qualified persons have been found willing | first highly evangelical, and ever seasoning to enter the service.

The good people of Scotland are just now the Glasgow Presbytery, denies the continual obligation of the fourth commandment, and bases the Christian Sabbath upon the authority of the Apostles, derived from our Lord, but intended, he considers, to be distinguished from the Jewish, and observed in a method adapted to Christian liberty. This view has been common in England, Scotland, where the continued obligation of the commandment, as such, has scarcely ever been denied; while by many such a denial would be considered as sacrilege. This attracts more attention, as at present the Sabbath question is exciting much dis-Sundays. A large and influential meeting has been held in Edinburgh, to consider the best mode to put a stop, if possible, to this innovation. There is a great fear that the peace of the country will be soon disturbed by pleasure trains, and that much injury may ensue to the religious character and habits of the people.

In London, the enemies of the Sabbath have met with a decided check in what they regarded as their strong point—i. e., among the working classes. Some time ratives, urging that the Kensington Museum should be opened on the Sabbath, that being their only day for recreation. This don to send another deputation, with Mr. Hughes, the new member for Lambeth, and classes, Mr. Murphy, at their head, to deny the right of the former deputation to be considered the representatives of the workdeputation represented, that they desired, above all things, the Sabbath should be kept holy, as the greatest boon that could be conferred upon workmen. The dispute Martin's Hall, for the purpose of comparing strength. The meeting was a large and with them, and have groaned under the grievance of Sabbath laws.

spheres of society, and the project of closing the Crystal Palace—not the grounds around everywhere, when I defend religious morit, but the building itself—on the Sabbath, als.' though for the present defeated, is gaining ground. A refewed effort will also be made to stop the running of excursion trains on the holy day.

The subject of the union of the unen-

dowed Presbyterian churches in Scotland, is experiencing some revival under the ed from the Academy of Paris." championship of Dr. Cairns. The Doctor believes that at last, after long deliberation by the friends of the measure, one great practical difficulty—that of providing a method of ministerial support which shall be acceptable all around—can be harmoni-ously disposed of. We do not find the plan stated, but it is claimed as a happy combination of the two existing modesthat of the congregational principle and the central sustentation fund system, without the drawbacks of either. Dr. C. states that the unanimity on the subject is such

"Innovations," a term which means the introduction into churches of organs and peace. By the mere torce of his Christian hymn-singing, are gaining ground among the Presbyterians of Scotland. In the Glasgow Presbytery of the Free Church. Professor Gibson attempted to stand against them, by proposing an overture to the Ge- his feet, to be devoted to the work of misneral Assembly. Dr. Buchanan took the other side, and the Professor's proposal was defeated by a majority of one. An organ is about to be introduced into Dr. McDuff's large congregation, in Glasgow.

FRANCE.

ligious conferences, or lectures, which atlife. The report of the Deaconesses' In- recently, when it was answered by a perstitution is filled with cheering facts; all emptory refusal. human sufferings there meet with sympathy

influence of instruction and example.

condition for conserving the faith. It is especially among the poor, to read and explain the word of God.

December. Dr. Grandpierre and Mr. Cohis instructions with the life of the Gospel, and the other treating the Bible as in part alarmed by an expected increase of the fable, and regarding with contempt the idea desecration of the Sabbath-an alarm which, of mysteries, miracles, and a Divine atonewe are pained to say, is increased by the ment for sin, as belonging to the Gospel. unintended, but real, counter influence of On the day of the opening of the church, Dr. Norman Macleod, chaplain to the each of these men preached a sermon, Queen. Dr. M., in a recent speech before | bringing out his views on these subjects in their extremest light. This from the same pulpit, and where each alike had the claim to be heard and heeded by the same flock!

There are now eight National Reformed city is fifty-four, and the number of churches of all Protestant denominations is thirtybut has hitherto been little mooted in seven. At the beginning of the present

century, there was not one. The progress of liberal ideas in the Romontanism, with its suicidal stubbornness, is in the ascendant, but a western policy cussion, on account of the recent opening of has been inaugurated, which is making the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway on better headway against infidelity. The the first, took progressiveness into favor, dead men's bones, and pretended miracles, to stem the tide of atheism. Father Hyacinthe, a man whose qualifications seem eminently to suit this line of policy, has been stationed in the pulpit of Notre Dame, and, to use a term more popular than becoming, he draws-has in fact become the rage. The great church is througed, jammed since Lord Granville was waited upon by a even, with the cream of Paris fashion, and participate, are held statedly in Naples. deputation, claiming to represent the ope- large sums are paid for the preoccupancy of

l seats. Father Hyacinthe is making the new system of independent morality his special led the working men in the South of Lon- object of attack. This system has, however, nothing new but the name. As far as yet developed, it is a sort of common that indefatigable friend of the working ground for materialists, fatalists, and unmitigated atheists. It proclaims God a mere abstract idea, and makes what is useful to all in common, the basis of morality. ing classes, and to say, for the section this | The Notre Dame preacher is vigorous, and his blows are telling, more especially because he has the ear of the classes from

whom the most has been feared. In connection with these efforts of his, which of the two deputations was the pro- there has been brought out the same disauxiliaries? I look no more at the abyss that exists between us; I extend a friendly The excitement is spreading to other | hand, and I thank you for the help that

> We record, as one sign of hope for France, that a number of the young men who raved their blasphemies against religion in the congress at Liege, (noticed under the head into some overt act of disrespect. In of Belgium), have been sentenced by the another, a youth being asked what were Senatus Academicus to be "forever exclud- | the principal political divisions of Europe,

GERMANY,

The death of the celebrated pastor, Harms, of Hermansburgh, Hanover, is a heavy affliction to the cause of vital godliand evangelical enterprise in the Lutheran Church.. With the unhappy exception of his Church-exclusiveness. which was carried to the extent of refusing communion to any Christian outside of the Lutheran Church, his was a model apos tolicism. Though seldom from home, his labors reached out to the ends of the earth. that he has heard no word of dissent from His whole Church had become a missionary any one of the churches concerned, minister or layman, to whom he has suggested donations of his friends, fitted out a ship, which has several times conveyed beyond seas small armies of these messengers of character, Harms exerted upon all the members of his flock an unlimited influence. More than one rich farmer of his Church sions. To accomplish such great things, Harms never resorted to public collections. He contented himself with making known his work by means of a periodical which he published; and the money flowed in on all sides, as if given by the hand of God him-

The Protestantism of France, despite the | The Austrian Government, notwithembarrassments of the rationalistic strife, standing the most solemn declaration gives signs of healthfulness and thrift. of the sovereign respecting the rights of The latest accounts are that the Young different confessions, has just perpetrated Men's Christian Unions are multiplying, another act of spiritual despotism. The , and exhibit abundant activity. They have city of Meran, on account of its baths, is a commenced, in some of the large towns, re- summer resort for visitors, and the governtract numerous hearers. The associations to permit the celebration of evangelical

The new Sabbath school movement is and the best evidences of brotherly love. becoming one of the most cheering signs of maintained that atheism is the ultimate So with the Colonie Agricole of Sainte Foy. hope for the redemption of German Chrisconclusion of human science, and that the The report shows that the young criminals, tianity from the deadly embrace of ration reformation of the world is hopeless until

THE RELIGIOUS WORLD ADDIAD to fight against their passions, and to enter progress which it is making in Stuttgart, a destroyed, and the idea of God exploded. It is progress which it is making in Stuttgart, a progress which it is making in Stu establish a Sabbath-school was flatly re-The Evangelical Church of Lyons has fused Three schools are now in operation just brought out an interesting half-yearly there, giving Biblical instruction to between report. This is a free church, clear of three and four hundred scholars, and supstate entanglement, and hence in better plied by about sixty teachers. One of them is under the immediate superintendgrowing under the culture of orthodox and ence of Mr. Hunther, the younger of the the throne. It is of the ultramontane type, of gentlemen willing to enter upon the service, and he announces that, in taking such a step, he is acting under the authority of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Christian life. It also employs Bible wo- America, and also by personal intimacy is excluding all religious teaching from the men, who go from house to house, and with Dr. Schaff. A school is about to be opened in the parochial Church parish the rising generation, of both sexes, a which is the centre of the city of Berlin. Afrecent event has afforded a singular From another quarter, Mr. Procknow, the llustration of the embarrassing condition successor of Mr. Gossner, of missionary or the National Reformed churches, in re- fame in Germany, writes that he had open- ing them out from under the immediate gard to rationalism, as brought about by ed a new Sabbath school, which on the control of the clergy. The object sought their enjoyment of State patronage, on the second Sabbath brought together three is a better administration of the temporalicondition of surrendering a portion of their | hundred children, with twenty-six teachers. | ties of the Church. All the Bishops protest independence. The Reformed Church of It is expected that the number will soon be against the measure as an unconstitutional Paris entered their new church edifice, the doubled, and the school will be divided as interference with the independence of the

ITALY.

evidences of progress are constantly pour amelioration of the condition of the Jews of ing in, in connection with schools, colpor- Poland and other parts of the Russian emtage and enlarged facilities for bringing pire, is in course of execution. The poor Gospel truth to bear on the Italian mind.

Rev. Mr. Clark, connected with the American Foreign and Christian Union, writing from Milan, says that progress is more rapid. He can plainly see a great change in Italian thought, sentiment, and religious conviction during the past year. Things are not only moving, but they are churches in Paris, with fourteen pastors. in sympathy with a true religious reform. The whole Protestant pastoral force of the Other accounts speak of the arrest and punishment of persons for disturbing the worship of the evangelicals. A Wesleyan chapel has been opened at Mezzano, where a number of working men have espoused the cause of Christ, and heartily given of mish communion in the Empire is becom- their labor and money for this new place ing more marked. It is true that ultra- of worship. The two locales of the Waldensian Church in Florence are crowded four evenings in the week to listen to Dr. DeSanctis, who is carrying on four distinct has been some time in progress, is now met series of expositions, on the Apostolic Archbishop of Paris, a prelate who, from Creed, controversy with Rome, ecclesiastical history, and the harmony of the Book has now brought pulpit talent and fervor of Moses with modern science. Genuine into play, in the place of pieces of wood, conversions to Christ, followed by devoted Christian activity, are reported from Sardinia. A second Gospel journal, bimonthly, has been started at Milan. It proposes to report and further the progress of the entire evangelistic movement in Italy, without respect to denominational differences. United meetings for prayer, in which evangelical Christians generally

The more general view of religious affairs in Italy is a political one, everything of interest being more or less connected with the bridling, by the government, of Popish impudence. The government recently enforced the examination, by its own commissioners, of that portion of the Italian seminaries which are professedly for theological training, but which are attended by many youths destined to other professions. The examination had no reference to the strictly theological studies, but to ascertain what other teaching young Italians are there re-ceiving. The priests loudly protested, threatened excommunication, and all that; but Victor Emanuel has heard this too often to feel his nerves disturbed by it. per representative of the working men, led | position toward Christian fraternization | The examination has exposed this state of to the holding of a public meeting in St. | which we mentioned last month, as exhib- things :- All the studies most demanded by ited by the Archbishop. In one of his the requirements of the times—most needed late discourses, Father Hyacinth thus ad- to prepare a youth for the part he might exciting one, and the members were so dressed Protestant Christians: - "You are have to play in after life, history, geograequally divided that no conclusion could my auxiliaries. Ah! doubtless I cannot phy, natural science, and the like, were be reached—a stinging defeat of the anti- forget what separates us: there is a gulf either wholly neglected, or reduced to the Sabbath party so far as this, that it puts an | between you and me—the Church! But | minimum, both in quality and quantity. end to their hitherto almost uncontradicted neither can I forget what unites us. Do Most of the inspectors remark, too, how the claim, that this class are almost unanimously you not believe in Christ as I do, O my | very natures of the youths seemed crushed into a dull, formal, lumpish type-no buoyaney, no free outcome of individual temperament, no joyous overflow of young, fresh life. Worse, too, if possible, was the civil and political training. Everywhere the portrait of the king shone by its absence. In one seminary, the rector confessed that he had not ventured to put it up for fear the students should be betrayed

another, a youth being asked what were knew nothing, or affected to know nothing, of the existence of a Kingdom of Italy! In all, reactionary sentiments were more or less directly inculcated. The government now makes sharp and short work with these seminaries. Their revenues are taken in charge by the State, one-third to be assigned to the Church for the training of its bona fide clergy, and the remainder to be appropriated to general educational purposes.

The Italian Parliament is employed on schemes for the secularization of ecclesiastical property, and the separation of the spheres of the Church and State. Both measures are popular in the kingdom, and will probably be consummated at no distant

From Rome there is nothing of special interest. What little religious excitement exists, is centred around the coming eighteen hundreth anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Peter, on the 29th of July next. All the bishops of the Catholic has been known to lay all his property at world are summoned to meet in the Papal city at that time.

BELGIUM.

At present the religious condition of Belgium is not hopeful. The irreligion of the kingdom is rapidly assuming the phrase now so common in other countries of the continent—the undisguised atheism of the days of Voltaire. The town of Liege was recently the scene of the largest and most violent demonstration in that direction which has taken place since the fall of the first French Republic. True, it is hardly to be accounted as a Belgian affair, being an "International Congress," in which France ment has for three years been importuned to permit the celebration of evangelical reflected only too faithfully the character on behalf of scattered Protestants are like- worship there. Under the remonstrance and spirit of the anti-church influences of wise at work, and apply themselves every- of the local spiritual authorities, the petition | the locality. This Congress was composed where to the distribution of the bread of has lingered without response until very of about one thousand five hundred young men, chiefly scholars from different parts of the continent, assembled for the discussion of religious and political problems. Speakers or vicious children that are admitted, learn | alism. We see interesting accounts of the | every religion is abolished, the churches

Unhappily, the so-called religion of the kingdom is more likely to add fuel to this devastating flame, than to do anything efficacious toward extinguishing it. The Protestant king is dead and Romanism is on is excluding all religious teaching from the schools, thus insuring to vast multitudes of thorough anti-Christian training

Just now an effort is being made in the Chambers to reform the vestries, by bring-

RUSSIA.

A new step on the path of religious tole-In the evangelistic department, while | ration has just been taken by the Governnothing very stirring has recently occurred, ment. A series of reforms, looking to the Israelites have been shackled in their religious, as well as other kinds of development among other things in their favor, an Imperial Ukase has just been published, con ceding to all Jews occupied in any industrial pursuits the right of traveling and settling in all parts of the Russian empire. It is hoped that this liberty will soon be ex-

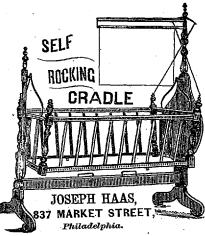
tended to all their co-religionists. We are sorry to mar the above with the record of a decidedly backward step. In the orignally German province of Livonia. now a part of the German empire, some twenty years ago, during a severe famine, great numbers of people, to escape starvation, were induced to forsake the Lutheran communion, and enter the Orthodox Greek Church. They have since bitterly repented that step, and a returning movement, which by a legal regulation affixing a sliding scale of penalties, from six months' suspension to perpetual banishment to Tobolsk, for any Lutheran pastor who shall admit into his communion, or give the Lord's Supper to a member of the Greek Church, administer baptism to the child of any such member, or who shall be convicted of any act of proselyting from the Greek Church; either by preaching or writing. And yet, when this Livonia, along with certain other German provinces, was subjected to the empire. a solemn treaty stipulation guaranteed to them liberty of conscience and worship.

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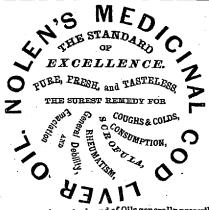
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