ITALY.

CHURCH REFORMATION.—Few of our older readers have forgotten the splurge made some twenty or more years since, by Bishop Southgate, then at Constantinople, the purport of which was to supercede the ordinary missionary work among the Armenians and other nominally Christian sects in the Turkish dominions, by the simple process of somewhat manipulating the existing systems, and then accepting them as a reformed Church. As nearly as we recollect, the Bishop of Constantinople remained a few years in his see, without clergy or parishes, and then returned to this country without leaving behind him a mark, except some temporary embarrassment to the true evangelizing work. The effort, however, left its moral—that when the conscience is once loosed from the slavery of ghostly superstition, it asks for no resting place short of a thorough spiritual revolu-

We see it stated that an English and an American Bishop, who, during the past spring, were sojourners in Italy, have together been concocting a scheme for an Italian Church reformation, which, from the outline before us, is not dissimilar to that of the ex-prelate of Constantinople, and will, if it grows into an effort, assume about the same attitude toward the existing Evangelical agencies, such as the Waldensian Synod and the Missions of the American and Foreign Christian Union. These prelates are the Bishops of Gibraltar and Pennsylvania, who, in their travels, have repeatedly met in the chief cities of Italy, from Naples to Milan. They have found many persons who can no longer conscientiously share in the ordinances of religion, as at present administered by the Romish Church, and who, on the avowal of their scruples, and their desire for reformation, are at once ejected from it. These results they in part account for, by the vigorous efforts of the last few years, made by native Italian, [Waldensian Presbyterian,] as well as other [non-prelatical missionary] agencies for the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures, and of other information tending to show the degeneracy of the Romish from the primitive Catholic Church. Numerous congregations of separatists have therefore connected themselves with non-Episcopal bodies. The Bishops see no occasion for so radical a change, and believe some scheme of reformation should be inaugurated to meet the widespread, though often vague yearning for a return to primitive Catholicism, such as would reform without destroying the ancient historical Church of Italy.

How extensive a reformation the Bishops

propose-how much is to be eliminated of the doctrines of the mass, sacramental grace, indulgences, invocation of the saints, purgaiturgy in a dead tongue, enforced celibacy, Mariolatry, "and similar distinctive Roman practices." They have held many conferpractices. ences with the Italians thus disposed to Church reformation, and are "satisfied, from much evidence that has reached them, that those Italians, whether priests or laymen, who are cast out of their original communion too often find no opportunity of satisfying their religious needs in accordance with Church principles and Church order, and thus have no resource but to unite themselves to one or the other of the non-Episcopal bodies; or they lapse into a condition in which, practically, they have no opportunities of wor into infidelity." They commend to the various members of their respective branches of the Church the duty of assisting the following

objects:—
"1. The dissemination of the Holy Scriptures and such information as may tend to promote a sound and sober reformation of

as may, for conscience' sake, suffer loss of their ecclesiastical preferment, and conse quently fall into distress.

'3. Toward the maintenance of religious services conducted by such priests, as a temporary and provisional measure during the transitional stage which must elapse before the Reformation movement can be expected to become national.'

And finally, ignoring utterly the Christian aggressiveness which forms the most effective feature of the Last Commission, they 'hold that an indispensible condition of ren dering assistance to the last named object should be careful investigation on the spot to ascertain that such religious services spring from a genuine and spoutaneous desire on the part of the Italian laity, and that the sincerity of this desire should be attested by earnest native efforts to meet the needful

AMONG THE SOLDIERS.—The Evangelical Christendom has a letter from Rev. Archibald Craig, near Florence, detailing the particulars of Bible distribution among the soldiers. The work is not yet very extensive, but may easily be made so. Mr. Craig pursues it thus far with but little embarrassment. Officers either connive at it, or openly encourage it, and soldiers are often eager to re-

THE PAPACY, EXACTLY.—Pio Nino has proclaimed the beatitude of the late Queen of Naples. She belonged to the House of Savoy, and was the mother of Francis II., present ex-King of Naples. It is easily understood that the Pope intended a hint for the present King of Italy, Victor Emmanuel, and that he expects that the sainted Queen would, in heaven, intercede for the restoration of that dethroned family of King Bomba and consort. If, says a cotemporary, she is even in heaven, that, we trust, would be the last thing she would attempt there.

BELGIUM.

DEFEAT OF THE CLERICAL PARTY.—During the June election of members of the two houses of the Legislature, the Ultra- had been well spent, that a broad and immontanes made a desperate effort to seoure the control of those bodies, and thus force the Government into illiberal measures toward the Protestants. Parish priests denounced the Liberals from the pulpit, and threatened with everlasting torments those who should vote for them. On the day of election they accompanied their parishioners to the balloting, and watched their voting. As usual, they carried their zeal to the excess which insures a rebound. All the result of their efforts was to bring the cause of religion into contempt, and to leave their party in a minority in both branches. If this madness of Romanism reacted only upon itself, it would be less deplorable. But Belgium is fast becoming the meeting-place for all the schools of infidelity on the continent, and such exhibitions make their unhappy disciples none the fewer.

Toleration. — Rev. J. H. Pettingell, American Seaman's Chaplain, writes from the intensely Romish city of Antwerp, to the

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to protect and even to support all religion. This may be true, so long as the dissenting sects will confine themselves to their present. narrow limits, but I do not think much favorwould be shown by the Government even.
Certainly not, by the people, to proselyting efforts. Our colporteur has had no little difference. ficulty in finding a place of residence in which he could keep his books, and from which he could go forth on his unobtrusive work. I have had the opportunity of holding several very interesting little meetings at his room, with a few English speaking seamen he had invited there. We were obliged to close fast the shutters, and then we were much annoyed by the boys, who gathered round the place and shouted and pounded on the windows and threw stones against the door. Yet," he adds, "I think the way is open in part and will be more open for evangelical labor here. I could only wish that there was more spiritual life in the small bodies of Proestant Christians here, or that we had two or three co-laborers here who speak the Flemish and French language, and were full

of zeal for Christ.'

SOUTH AFRICA. GERMAN MISSIONS.—The Berlin Foreign Missionary Society celebrated its anniversary n Berlin, last May. Its work is confined to South Africa, where its stations are divided into five districts. The most southern district is the Cape district, within which during 1865, notwithstanding manifold difficulties, 112 souls were baptized. The second district embraces British Caffreland, where 60 were baptized. The third is the Orange Free State, one of the stations of which, Bethany, was touched by the war between Moshesh and the Boers. The fourth district is that of Natal, where during the last year the missionaries have at hast been reaping some of the fruits of many years' apparently fruitless labor; 48 souls were baptized. The fifth district, that of Leydenburg, has been subject to great trial and persecution during the last year. The heathen king, Lekuhuni, gave orders that every missionary should quit his territory; but many of the converts have remained steadfast in the faith.

BISHOP COLENSO AND THE NATAL CLERGY. -A lengthened conference of the clergy of Natal has, on the strength of the decision of the Privy Council, as explained by the Queen's Attorney General, resolved that Bishop Colenso has no longer any ecclesiastical status, or control over the clergy, churches or church property in Natal. The conference further resolved "that we cannot addit him interactions and all attempts mit him into our churches, and all attempts on his part to thrust himself upon us will be regarded as a lawless interruption of Divine service, as it is oppressive to our consciences tory, auricular confession, etc.,—does not service, as it is oppressive to our consciences exactly appear. The only points which we as Christians, and subversive of our rights see named as demanding reformation, are the as citizens; and that we will make every efgeneral disuse of Bible reading, reading the liturgy in a dead tongue, enforced celibacy, ful means." There was but one dissentient.

FRENCH MISSIONS.—The Paris correspondent of the Christian Work writes:-"The news that has thrown distressing gloom over all our Churches, is from our South Afri-can Mission. The Boers have forced almost all our missionaries away from their stations, the results of so many years' labor to evangelize, to form, to civilize. A few waggons were sent to remove the greater part of their property, and promise made to respect their land and that of the Society. Eight missionaries and their families had been removed in March, and had taken refuge at Aliwal North, belonging to England. ship, and thus run grievous risk of drifting The others had been allowed to remain, or were not yet removed. Of one there is no news; and of another, M. Fredoux, the report-too true, alas !-is, that by an awful act of fury from an Englishman, who set fire to a barrel of gunpowder, he was instantane-ously hurried into eternity, with his mur-derer and those around him. He leaves a the Italian Church on primitive Catholic bases.

"2. Toward the support of such priests, of undoubted moral and religious character, and those and thin. He had been twenty-one years in the field."

SYRIA.

BOARD.—Though not strictly pertinent to the news of the month, it will be interesting to read from the Engage of Christander to read from the Engage of the Christander to read to read, from the Evangelical Christendom of July, the following testimony of its Syrian | the respective parties to each other. If the correspondent to our work in that region:

"Passing on from Nazareth, we strike the Syrian mission of the American Board at Acre, from which point it extends north as far as Tripoli, and includes the whole of Mount Lebanon. The first missionaries who explored this field came out as early as 1819, and it was their original intention to make Jerusalem their centre of operations. They gave up this point finally to the English missionaries, and in 1830 their work was fairly commenced, with Beyrout as a centre. They have now four central stations—at Beyrout, Abeih, Sidon, and Tripoli—with twenty-one out-stations, at two of which there are settled native pastors. There was another at Hasbeiyah, but the church there was destroyed during the massacres. The field is occupied by nine ordained foreign missionaries, and sixteen native helpers, not including some twenty-five teachers. The great work accomplished by this mission has been the trans-lation of the Bible into the Arabic language. The translation was commenced by Dr. Eli Smith, some twenty years ago, and completed after his death by Dr. Van Dyck. It is probably one of the best translations ever made; and it presents the Bible in a most attractive form to 150,000,000 of the human family, the very style of the Arabic causing it to be eagerly read, even by Moslems. It was printed at the mission press at Beyrout, which has been for many years, and until very recently, the only printing press in Syria, and which has issued more than 75,000,000 pages of the Scriptures and of religious works. In 1865 more than 12,000 volumes were sold of these issues. If the American mission had never accomplished anything else than this, it might well feel that all its years of labor movable foundation had been laid for the regenerated Church of the East. This, how-ever, has been but a single branch of their work. They have not only printed the Gospel, but preached it through all their field, so that it would be difficult to find a village where the truth had not been heard by some, at least, of the villagers. In Beyrout they have an Arabic congregation of some 250, which will undoubtedly increase as soon as they are able to furnish seats in a new church for a larger congregation.

AUSTRALIA.

THE CHURCH AND STATE QUESTION. The Sydney Fresbyterian Messenger for April, in its "Notes for the Month," says :- "There has been an attempt to renew State aid to the four denominations hitherto in receipt of it in this colony. The question has been before the Legislative Assembly. The aim is to get a grant of £28,000 annually for the country districts. This question is likely to

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ed statements respecting the Presbyterian Church, as well as the Methodist, as if nothing had ever been done for the interior by Independently of State aid, the Fresby terian Church occupies at present Woollong-ong, Shellharbour, Kiama; Shoalhaven, Moruya, Twofold Bay, Cooma, Braidwood, Queanbeyan, Yass, Wentworth, Carcoar, Orange, Wellington and Dubbo, Bowenfells; and in the Northern Districts, Armidale, Wellingrove, the Clarence and Richmond Rivers, while arrangements are in progress for reaching other districts of the interior."

MADAGASCAB.

The last report of the London Missionary Society gives a return of 3000 communicants and 15,000 converts in the churches of its Madagascar mission. With a small addition to their missionary force, it is believed that the employment of native evangelists would soon spread the Gospel over the whole of that important and populous country. "In no single year," says the report, "since the So-ciety commenced its operations in Madagascar, has a more abundant measure of success been granted to its labors than during that now closed. The accessions to the churches in the capital, nearly 500 in number, include individuals of high rank and just entering upon their early manhood. The instances among the churches in which the exercise of discipline have been requisite are but few. Madagascar is the smallest mission field on which the Society has entered, and in which it has the fewest laborers. In this field it has met with its heaviest trials and been called to sustain its severest afflictions. But the experience of the Divine care and blessing demands our sincere gratitude, while the claims of the still destitute parts of the country, and the condition of the newly formed churches, require our sympathy and prayer.

[From the Presbyterian.] RE-UNION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The subject of the union of the Old and New School Presbyterian Churches has passed, by the action of the General Assemblies, into the hands of large and respectable committee appointed by each Assembly instructed to confer together touching the matter, and ascertain whether re-union is now wise or practicable. The committal of this whole subject imposes, to some degree, a restraint upon its discussion, or rather makes discussion, while the report of these committees is waited for, very much a work of supererogation. We believe that a large majority in both Churches are satisfied with the posture of affairs, and are willing to wait patiently for the result of the conferences which are to be held. In both Churches there is a number of persons who believe that nothing can be effected, and who are anxious that this should speedily be made to appear, and therefore very desirous to give reasons for their belief. But to the great body, especially of the laity, of both communions, the whole question was one imperatively demanding investigation. The assurance which the few on both sides felt that nothing could be done, could be reached by the many only after full and impartial examination, and they felt that the time for that examination had come. We believe that the appointment of these committees was wise and right, and that conferences on this subject, if conducted in the right spirit and temper, can result only in good, even if they do not result in the formal union of the churches. We have, therefore, given this movement for a conference, our earnest support, and do not intend to do or say anything which will embarrass those to whom this delicate and important negotiation has been entrusted. At the same time, we think we represent the public opinion of our branch of the

Church, when we say that there is just one thing which the Church will exact of its committee, and that is—thoroughness. oes not wish anything overlooked; it does not wish anything blinked; it does THE SYRIAN MISSION OF THE AMERICAN | not wish any essential matter passed over to the list of non-essential or unimportant parinvestigation, revealing the precise status of brethren of the other branch believe that we have exalted the powers and prerogatives of the General Assembly unduly, we wish to know it. If Mr. Barnes is the representative theologian of the New School, we wish to know that. If there is a public sentiment in any of the Presbyteries of that Church which will permit a congregational committeeman to sit as a member, and be commissioned as such to the General Assembly, then we wish to know that. If the public support which the Church has given to the Government in the hour of its peril, is to be plead as a precedent by those who wish the Assembly to discuss common political topics, then we wish to know that. And we wish also to know the points wherein they distrust us—the points which they wish held in abeyance—the points whereon silence is to be observed. This is a time for candor, and for honest dealing with one another, and honest unveiling of ourselves and our opinions; and the union that shall come out of such comparison of views, and such a perfect comprehension of each other's position, it union comes, will be lasting, will be heartyunion to be ardently sought, and when

attained, rejoiced in with joy unfeigned. Such a union we most heartily desire. We have had quite a sufficiency of strifes and schisms. We have lived quite long enough in the midst of a divided and discordant Presbyterianism. We have seen all the advantages which result from the existence of rival communions, if such advantages there are. We would be glad to study now the advantages resulting from concentration, and the steady direction of one vast body in the way of its own extension and upbuilding. We have had some sorrowful exemplifica-tions of the ease with which Presbyterians go asunder, let us have some pleasant instances of the readiness with which they can re-unite. Therefore, let us have thorough work in the committees as the only method by which to secure a trustworthy and

satisfactory union in the Courch. Of the necessity and value of this thoroughness in the preliminary conferences, we have a notable instance in the negotiations conducted by the committees of the Scotch Presbyterian Churches in reference to union. These committees have been in existence a least three years. They have discussed every point where difference was even sus-They have met often, considered every topic in their programme carefully, and come to a definite conclusion on every disputed They have left no unfinished work spirits it doubtless seemed a slow process; but it is drawing to a most satisfactory end, and the matter has been overtured to the Presbyteries in a shape so mature and well defined that an answer is easy, and will be, by

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Christian World:—"The Government is said | cause much agitation. One of the advocates | an immense majority, in the affirmative. | the men holding opinions obnoxious to them of this measure uttered the most unfound. | We shall soon see the dykes torn down, that they showed toward the men who were the gates lifted up, and the lines so long separating Presbyterians in Scotland, disappearing in the general mingling of the waters, hereafter, as we hope, to flow together always, and in one direction, brightened by the rays of the Son of Righteousness, and bearing precious, redeemed souls onward to the ieavenly and eternal kingdom.

We hope that the example of our elder brethren will not be lost on us. Let us give as much time to the matter, if that is necessary. Let us be as patient, as persistent, as thoroughly determined to take no step for-ward where the ground is not solid. Let us be as careful in our preliminary examinations, as clear and definite in our statements of results reached, and may the good Master and Great Head of His Church give us as safe and pleasant an issue.

CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS.

THE NEUTRALITY LAWS.

We quote some of the concluding paragraphs of a report made to the House by a Committee of which Gen. Banks was Chair-

man:

The recent memorable invasion of Canada offers a signal exhibition of the spirit and character of our Government. Great Britain has given no cause to respect her sense of justice and her regard for right. Our people, who derive from her their ideas of language, liberty, and law, institutions and reli gion, might justly expect consideration, if not favor. But with indecent disregard of our situation, she has not lost an opportunity to embarrass us. She planted slavery in America for her own selfish interests. The profits of the African slave trade with this country were the foundation of many of her colossal private fortunes. Having fastened it upon us, she precipi

tated the question of its abolition upon w. When abolition threatened our destruction, she ridiculed, resisted, and denounced emancipation. When emancipation was necessary to our existence as a nation, she gave her sympathy to rebels, of whose confederacy slavery was to be the headstone of the corner. She countenanced a rebellion, of which the only effect was to sacrifice precious blood, in great part of her own kith and kin. She ent them the skill of her mechanics, of which the rebels had nothing, and without which war was impossible, thus making her working men supporters of a cause the triumph of which was the degradation of labor. She gave to the rebellion her sympathy, as long as it was serviceable, and sold to them their power, as they could pay for it.

And when, in adherence to our own policy.

by reluctant, questionable, and even violent execution of our laws, we preserved to her possessions the loss of which would be the precursor of other calamities, and reduce her to the rank of a subordinate power, against a race to which our country is deeply indebted, and which has suffered for centuries inexcusable and ineffaceable wrongs, our conduct is approved as better than they had a

right to expect. The institutions and traditions of the American people compel sympathy for the hum-blest of the human family when struggling for liberty. Their literature is rank with the spirit of oppressed races struggling for liberty, and nations fighting for independence. Their faith in these ideas has been strengthened by the results of their own struggle. It is impossible for them not to wish well to the cause of patriots everywhere. They gave their good wishes to Switzerland, France, Spanish America, Poland, Greece, Hungary and every country that sought a relief from tyranny. They cannot withold from Ireland an expression of their hopes for the restoration of its independence. They believe, with Pitt, that Ireland is entitled to the same privileges as England, and Irishmen to the same rights as Englishmen. They believe, with Wilberforce, that England owes reparation to

reland. Mr. Grote, the classic historian of Greece, remembering that mythologists recognize three Jupiters, sees, in reviewing English history, two Englands: one, noble, wise, and strong one sordid, brutal, insensible to right and indifferent to what is done in its name. For six centuries, he says, the bad England has kept vigil for Ireland, while for the rest of the world it has generally slept. We cannot affirm that it has slept for America, but we agree with him that the general fact is attested by European, and, we may add, American opinion, which reveres English history at large, but regards the Irish part of it with resentment, wonder, and scorn; we believe with him that "England cannot study the history of Ireland without losing her self-respect nor the character of its people without advantage.

REPORT ON THE MEMPHIS RIOTS. The Committee on the Memphis Riots reported July 25. They say the outbreak of the disturbance resulted from a collision between some policemen and discharged colored soldiers, and was seized upon as a pretext for an organized and bloody massacre of the colored people of Memphis, regardless of age, sex, or condition, inspired by the teachings of the press, and led on by sworn officers of the law composing the city government, and

The whole evidence discloses the killing of men, women, and children, the innocent, unarmed, and defenseless, pleading for their lives and crying for mercy; the wounding, beating, and maltreating of a still greater number; burning, pillaging, and robbing; the consuming of dead bodies in the flames; the burning of dwellings; the attempt to burn up whole families in their houses, and the burning of determines are their houses. the brutal and revolting ravishing of defence

less and terror-stricken women. The report gives a circumstantial account of the commencement of the difficulties, the renewal of the disturbances, shooting ne groes, brutal murders, what the riot was, the cowardice of the mob, burning of Lincoln Chapel, and other features of the mob, recapitulates the number of colored persons killed at forty-six, and of whites two. Wounded, 75; rapes on colored women, 5; maltreated, 10; robberies, 100; houses and cabins burned, 91; churches, 4; school houses, 12: value of property destroyed, \$139,081.

The committee say, in their several conclu sions, that, from the testimony taken from personal observation, and from what they could learn in regard to the state of feeling in Memphis, and, indeed, throughout that entire section of the country, they are of opin ion that there is but little loyalty to the Government and flag. The state of things in the city of Memphis is very much now as t was before the breaking out of the rebel

Many of the same newspapers published there then are published now, and by many behind them, and overlooked no question of the same men, men who, during the war, that deserved consideration. To impatient were in the rebel armies, fighting for the were in the rebel armies, fighting for the overthrow of the Government. Professing to accept the situation, they seem inspired with as deadly hatred against the Government as ever, and are guilty of the same incitation to violence, persecution, and oppression toward

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well disposed toward the Union in 1861.

They believe in the principle and doctrine of seccession the same as ever; though they have been beaten by arms, they assert and maintain that the principle is the same, and hope for its vindication hereafter in some way. In view of the fact, the state of public PUBLICATION COMMITTEE, sentiment is such in Memphis that it is conceded that no punishment whatever can be meted out to the perpetrators of these out-rages by the civil authorities, and in view of the further fact that the city repudiates any liability for the property both of the Govern-ment and individuals, destroyed by the mob, the committee believe it to be the duty of the Government to arrest, try, and punish the offenders by military authority, and also by the same authority lay a tax upon the citizens of Memphis sufficient to cover the losses of all property destroyed.

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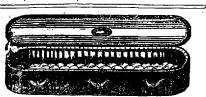
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