

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 2, 1861.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

According to the recent census return in Ireland, the Roman Catholic population is as three and one-half to one of the Protestant. Ten years ago it was eight to one. The Catholics have lost two million, the Protestants a quarter of a million. Cork has lost six thousand eight hundred, Dublin, eight thousand six hundred. Protestant Belfast has gained eighteen thousand nine hundred.

The London Review, in a recent notice of the Right Reverend Bishop-General Polk, says:

"But while Bishop Polk has the best of man and the best of bishops, and the bravest of brigadiers, he is the least of bishops that has ever sat in the seat of Armagh. He is not all that is great in him; it is a down, as sure as Sodom, Gomorrah, or Great Babylon. His hour has sounded, and its extinction is only certain, but near. All the bishops of Christendom, not bullies and tyrants, wrote so grievously. It is only to be deplored that man occupying conspicuous places before the world should so far forget the claims of religion and humanity, and act so abominably with a people who have suffered such a shameful outrage."

The Rev. Dr. Smith, President of Morehead College is a student in the naval army. He is, it is said, the first Southern writer of note, who endeavored to prove that slavery is a righteous institution. He has written a pamphlet, "The Slave's Right to Freedom," which is stated by the N. Y. Christian Advocate, that in the New England Free Church body, the number of members is eighty more than those of the church; while in the Old School the church communions, the members nine hundred and seventeen.

The Christian Observer, of Philadelphia, for some time past, has been having unmistakable signs of awakening. Its utterances of late, become so violent and offensive as to attract the attention of the authorities, and it was suppressed. The following extract is taken from the last number published:

"There is an UTTER IMPOSSIBILITY. The gross, brutal, fiendish, demands outrage perpetrated by the wicked slaves, who have been sent to burn the houses and burn them, torture the women, and shoot down for amusement, peaceable citizens and even children, on the streets, have GREATLY EXALTED THE PROTESTANT."

A correspondent of this Methodists writes that the baptists of Mississ. are a unit in favor of secession. On the other hand, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is divided on the question; also the Presbyterian Church somewhat.

Recent intelligence has been received of a skirmish of Moravian missionaries in a valley called Le Howe, about seventeen miles from Simla, and surrounded by snow mountains more than 20,000 feet in height. The only communication they have with the civilised world is to send one of their number once a year to Simla, to lay in provisions for a twelvemonth.

A new Jewish synagogue was consecrated in New York recently. The Psalm, "How beautiful are thy tents, O Jacob," was sung to the tune of the "Star Spangled Banner." In the course of the sermon of Rev. S. M. Isaacs, he exhorted his hearers "to be true to the country in which, by God's infinite mercy, their lot had been cast."

The Turkish Mission Aid Society in England is making an effort to help the American missionaries in Turkey this year.

Eleven new churches are in course of erection in Boston and its neighborhood, of which only one belongs to the Orthodox Congregationalists, and that is only a place of one hundred and fifty.

The Presbytery of Boston, of the Presbytery of Nashville has dissolved its connection with the Theological Seminary at Daviessville.

The number of Wesleyan Hymn Books sold in England during the past year was 129,100, or about 89,000 more hymn books in addition.

At the recent session of the British Wesleyan Conference the Rev. Mr. Foster, who has recently returned from the West Indies, in an address to the Conference gave a thrilling description of the great revival in Jamaica. The revival in this island has already resulted in an accession of 5,000 probationers to the Wesleyan Society, which number is likely to increase to 10,000.

The First Presbyterian Synod will meet in the First church, Allegheny, Pa., on Tuesday evening, the 1st day of October, at seven o'clock. The Rev. Dr. Kerr is Moderator of this body.

The Book Steward of the British Wesleyan Conference reported the sale of periodicals for 1860-61, 261,000 copies. He also reported the sale of fourteen million three hundred thousand pages of Tracts for the year.

The Presbyterians say the statement of Gen. McMillan called upon him to be satisfied with him in his plan, however, in Western Virginia, has been contradicted by several newspapers. Dr. Thompson of Cincinnati, in a sermon at Troy, recently said, "I do not think that he is a traitor, but though he never stopped to give any reason for his public statements, he fully conveys the impression that he is."

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Rev. Dr. Prentiss, of the Second United Presbyterian Church, of this city, received a special discourse last Sunday morning at nine A. M., by the soldiers of Col. Lawrence's Regiment.

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