

structure. They made more than masters of all the tongues of Western Asia.—Fakishi, Persian, Arabic, Armenian, and modern Greek. They translated the entire Bible into Armenian, Persian, and Turkish; and of course in all these they distributed many thousands of copies. They set up a printing-press in Smyrna, which they kept continually working, and by which they supplied the natives of the east with the most beautiful literature of Protestantism. By Jean D'Anagnin's "History of the R. Empire," we may translate, and to some extent to be believed, that thousands of copies of the Bible have been sent over the Levant, and that it has been over the West. They planted churches, in which the Scriptures were read, and schools, in the mountains of Lebanon, and in the city of Erzeroum. The Armenian Patriarch pronounced an anathema on the Scriptures of the Infidels, but that only enforces the work of the missionaries. The severe measures to which the head of the Armenian Church had recourse to block the Porte to recognize the existence of an Evangelical or Gospel Church in the Turkish dominions, and since that time the missionaries and the Scripture readers have enjoyed a measure of freedom unknown to them before. And now, those men who have so often gone forth bearing precious seed, come again rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them. Congregations and tracts of Scripture readers have been formed in many places in Turkey, in the chief cities, in the Lebanon mountains, and in the villages situated in the valley of the Euphrates. Let but the Bible continue to be freely circulated and read in Turkey, and the days of Mohammedism shall soon be numbered; and I wish it shall depart that physical and moral degradation and debasement which are its inevitable consequences. And fields shall bloom, and vines shall rise, and arts, and science, and commerce, shall all flourish where they first prevailed. Till that foul superstition which hangs, fog-like, over those regions where the light of the Gospel once so clearly shone, shall cease to exist, all attempts to regenerate the East will be abortive. Whether the missionaries will be allowed to remain, and the Bible to be read, shall depend almost entirely on the British Ambassador acting in a decided way. Those Governments in Europe which are connected with the Romish and Greek Churches would rejoice, no doubt, were the missionaries expelled. The spread of Christianity there is introducing an element of strength which these Governments cannot turn to account, and which will not be friendly to their interests. But let Britain act in the matter which becomes her character and position as a Protestant country. If France is represented in Turkey by the Romish Church, and Russia by the Greek Church, why should not Britain demand that Protestantism shall at least be tolerated there? This would conduce not less to the advancement of her own interests, than to the interests of those regions which were flourishing and powerful once, and would be so yet again, were they only rescued from those despicable tyrants, and abominable and filthy superstitions, which have oppressed and polluted them so long.

#### CORFU.

Letters have been received from Mr. Charteris to the 9th March. He writes—"I have no much to write you at this time that is different from my usual communications. My labours are gradually on the increase. I retain my intercourse with those of whom I have formerly written, and am not without hopes that some of them are increasing in knowledge and grace; while, after the Passover, we have the full expectation that some of the children may return." After going over the grounds of these expectations, he details numerous interesting conversations with the descendants of Abraham. To one, he relates, who began to speak of the great differences between the Hebrew and the Christian religions, "I said, are you sure there is such a great difference and change? and immediately turned up the 36th chapter of Ezekiel, desiring him to read it. I then referred him to the third chapter of John. In speaking of the most solemn truths arising from these chapters, I have scarcely ever succeeded in commanding a more undivided attention, and he has returned frequently during the last fortnight. I speak to him (and others) more of the new birth

than of anything else—a doctrine which he seems to receive with simplicity of heart." Mr. C. adds, "We are in security here, but are expecting supplies from the Black Sea. We are, however, not a better off than our poor countrymen and the Levant, and we ought to be very thankful that food is to be brought to us. I am glad to see the case of the poor Highlanders so warmly taken up by the Protestants of England. I pray that the true liberty may be sufficient to meet their wants."

#### CONSTANTINOPLE.

The following is an extract of a letter, of date the 16th March, received by a friend in London, from the Rev. Alex. Thomson, Free Church Missionary at Constantinople:—

"Our work in this great city is evidently blessed by the Lord God of Israel. None of the converts in Pesh exhibit more of the spirit of love and humility and faith, than the brethren do here. There are at present, besides a considerable number of general inquirers, four young men under special instruction for baptism, all whose cases we have reason to believe are hopeful. The movement among the Protestant Armenians has also tended in an eminent degree to convince the natives of this city, and even of the empire generally, that there are a set of Christians who are not idolaters, but who, on the other hand, are honest and kind, and who keep fast by the Word of God. This has already exerted a powerful influence upon the Jews and Turks, and who can say, but the Lord mean by this instrumentality to bring both within the reach of the Gospel? I hope in the course of three months, to remove to the immediate neighbourhood of the Spanish Jews, and open a school among them. What success we may meet with we cannot tell, as the field may be almost said to be as yet untryed. We must labour in faith and hope. I am very much interested in the prosperity of the Presbyterian Church in England, which I regard as likely to be one of the chief promoters of the cause of the truth in the southern kingdom."

#### CALCUTTA.

The annual examination of the Free Church Institution took place on the 30th December, at the Town Hall. The number of pupils was 1,014, being 937 in the school, and 107 in the college department. After an address from Dr. Duff, in which he stated the principles on which the Institution is conducted, the distribution of prizes commenced, before a large European and native assemblage. At the close of the examination Mr. Hawkins addressed the pupils, stating that the Institution was designed for one great ultimate object, which there was no desire to conceal, viz., the conversion of the natives.

#### BOMBAY.

Mr. Murray Mitchell, and Mr. Hunter, missionaries, reached Bombay on the 14th Feb., and Dhanubhai Naurao, who had remained for a short time at Malta, was expected soon to arrive in his native land, where we trust his labours may be greatly blessed to his own countrymen.

#### NAGPUR.

A letter from Mr. Hislop gives an interesting account of a journey which he undertook, to visit a native who had been impressed with a desire of knowing the truth as it is in Jesus. He had learned the elements of our faith from a copy of the "First Book for Children," in Balbooh, which had fallen into his hands. He had visited Mr. Hislop, eagerly inquiring for tracts, and on being presented with a New Testament, he rose up from the floor, and looking up to heaven, thanked the invisible God for his invaluable gift. On Mr. Hislop visiting him at his own village, he found that he had just finished reading his New Testament. He had long given up the worship of idols, but now had begun to observe the Lord's Day. He was desirous that the ordinance of baptism should be administered to him, but on being told that he must renounce caste, and waim of the trials and persecutions to which he would be exposed, he requested two days to consider; but at the end of that time he still remained full of doubts and fears, promising, how-

ever, that at the end of harvest, he would come to Nagpur, and put on Christ by public profession.

#### THE SYNOD OF AUSTRALIA.

The Synod of Australia having by a majority resolved to remain in connexion with the Established Church of Scotland, whereupon Messrs. McIntyre, Tait, and C. Stewart, protested, withdrew, and formed themselves into a new Synod, under the designation of the "Synod of Eastern Australia." Mr. Mowbray, of Sydney, and Mr. Hamilton, of Goulburn, have also withdrawn from the Synod.

#### Miscellaneous.

#### FACTS ABOUT CHINA.

China is about one third larger than all Europe, and three times as large as the ancient Roman Empire in the days of Augustus. The Chinese census gives the population as 362,000,000, which Dr. Morrison thought to be nearly correct. This gives about 277 to the square mile, the average in England being 260 on each square mile. This vast population is composed of several different families. The aboriginal Chinese still maintain an independent existence in the interior west of Canton. The Mongols compose the larger number; but the Manchos from the north are a stronger race, and more energetic, as appears from the fact that though numbering but four millions, they conquered China in ten years, and still hold possession of it. The Tibetans resemble the Hia-doods. About thirty dynasties, or successive races of kings, have already ruled in China. Their records are, perhaps, the oldest extant, except the Bible. The great wall of China has been standing 2,100 years. It is composed of two walls, each about two feet thick, and twenty feet high, inclining inwards, and filled up with earth and rubbish. Towers are raised every three hundred yards. These are in some parts of considerable strength, in others mere piles of earth. Through three or four large gates the whole commerce of Central Asia pours into China. That division of China called by us Tartary contains about 700,000 square miles. In the west part lies the great desert of Central Asia. For ages the only road from Europe to China lay over this sea of sand, and this was one reason of the isolation of this great empire. Some parts of the desert are at the great elevation of 15,000 feet above the sea. The cold in these parts of Tibet is intense. At Pekin, the capital of China, in latitude 40 deg. while the heat of summer frequently rises to 110 deg. the thermometer is sometimes for weeks together below zero. The climate of Canton is remarkably fine, ranging from 40 to 80 deg. and seldom in summer rising above 90 deg.

DEATHS IN THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The Edinburgh Witness in referring to the decease of the venerable Dr. Muirhead, remarks: "It is a striking coincidence in Providence, that, within these six months, no fewer than five of our most eminent and godly ministers have been taken away; one in the prime of life—a victim, apparently, to his laborious and indefatigable zeal in preaching among his destitute countrymen in the Highlands—the other four in good old age. Mr. M. Bryde of Rothsay—fallen, alas! prematurely for us, not for himself—Dr. Brown of Glasgow, Dr. Brewster of Craig, Mr. Munro of Halkirk, a venerable minister in the north part of Caithness—and now Dr. Muirhead of Cramond—all are gone from us within the brief space of some half a year; and their removal recalls the grief of earlier losses which our Church has sustained, and revives the sad memory of the best and ripest of our scholars, Dr. Welsh. These things call for consideration, searching of heart, and prayer. Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth. The five men we have named were among the holiest of the brethren—the very salt of our Church. Is their almost simultaneous removal to be regarded as a merely accidental circumstance? Or has the Lord a purpose of chastening and correction? May He give us wisdom; and may that prayer succeed to Him more and more from among us, which, often,