

kening, which appears to have been instrumentally brought about by lay preaching. In the autumn of last year a daily union prayer meeting was opened in the County Buildings of the City of Aberdeen. It was from the first largely attended, and, from the accounts which have appeared in the local papers, appears to have been the means of doing much good. Among the Clergy of the Established Church of Scotland who took a leading part in conducting the meeting the Rev. James Smith, of Greyfriars, has been conspicuous. On several occasions he commended the meeting to his own parishioners, many of whom began to sympathise with the new movement. Mr. Smith has been called to account by the Presbytery for the irregularity of giving the use of his church to the lay preachers, which is held to be contrary to the laws of the Church. The matter was discussed a few days ago, and Mr. Smith, in defending himself, spoke of the results of these meetings. He had, he said, seen nothing like them. "They were similar to what were described in connection with the labors of Wesley and Whitfield, the latter of whom was in the same position, not ordained. Hundreds of souls have been awakened—and I use no stronger language than 'awakened'—who had hitherto been careless and thoughtless. Let me tell you my own experience. I have been twenty years a minister, but, during the last five or six weeks, I have seen more fruits of my ministry than for twenty years before." The Presbytery having carried a resolution against Mr. Smith he has appealed to the Synod.—*Record*.

• RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS IN ENGLAND.

Mr. John McGregor, of London, writes to a friend in New York City under date March 19:

"Great and interesting doings are daily taking place in our religious world, St. Paul's, Westminster Abbey, St. James' Hall, Exeter Hall and other places, are crowded by working men on Sunday, to hear plain Gospel. Our open air work prospers greatly. The shoe-blacks earned £4,500 last year. The latest move here for good is among the omnibus men and cabmen. One company in London, that has *nine hundred omnibuses*, gives one Sunday in every three to all its thousands of men and boys. The other night we had a meeting at their principal stable and established a Bible class. Next Sunday thirty men came, which was good for a beginning. The cabmen, five years ago, were allowed to take a six day license, so as to rest on Sunday if they pleased. This year *fifteen hundred* of them, out of four thousand, availed themselves of this privilege, and the number is steadily increasing. A Sunday Rest Association for these men has been begun; also a Cabmen's Club. At a ragged school meeting recently held, *five hundred and fifty* pupils attended who had been at least one year in one situation with good character. A very influential military committee has just begun to send Scripture readers to all the regiments. The Chaplain General is at the head, and Sir Duncan McGregor is among the vice-presidents. You know it is a hard matter in England to get the official 'dignity' to relax in favor of the gospel of Christ; but in this case the leaven of religion in the army has been blessed with a very unusual and remarkable result.

"The Sailor's Home is going on capitally. The common sailors in London have deposited £36,000 as their savings in the bank. All this in former times would have been wasted in dissipation."—*S. School Times*.

INNOVATIONS IN THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

"The old Greyfriars Church in Edinburgh, where the National Covenant was signed in 1638, and which has ever since been visited by strangers, as the monument of that event and those connected with it, has been lately turned into a modern gothic structure, full of painted windows, without gallery or pulpit, with a platform something like an altar, written prayers, responses, kneeling at prayer, and standing up at praise, the service in the forenoon almost wholly devotional, the sermon which has hitherto occupied so prominent a place in Scottish worship, being reserved for the afternoon; all which is understood by Dr. Robert Lee, the pastor, to be strictly in accordance with "the spirit of the Westminster Directory!"—*Biblical Repository*.