

entirely to himself as to where, when, and how he should work. His first choice was Australia. Eighteen months were spent from home, and forty localities were visited. A profound interest was created among the people of Australia by the earnestness and impressiveness of his preaching, and before leaving the colony he presided at a remarkable communion service at Melbourne in compliance with a requisition signed by fifty ministers of different denominations, and at which four thousand communicants partook of the Sacrament. He subsequently made evangelistic tours through various parts of the Continent, and in South Africa. In 1886 he was appointed Moderator of the Free Assembly. His address on that occasion was a powerful plea on behalf of the cause of missions, and in various succeeding Assemblies he has given graphic and interesting accounts of his evangelistic labours. Three years ago he made a tour in the Highlands of Scotland, addressing congregations and public meetings in many parts in the north, and in July of the present year he spent three weeks in revisiting some of the scenes with which, on his previous visit, he had become acquainted. In the winter of 1887-88 he spent a considerable time in Bohemia and Hungary, and on November 30th, 1887, the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, he held a great meeting with Jews in Vienna, discoursing to a deeply interested audience on the subject—"What Christianity owes to the Jews." Last May he had the unique honour of being invited to address the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in connection with its mission to the Jews, and his reception on that occasion was a testimony to the esteem in which he was held by the churches of all denominations. Dr. Somerville's death reduces still further the small surviving band of pre-Disruption ministers in the Free Church, and the still smaller company of the friends and associates of Robert Murray McCheyne. His last public appearance was when he preached a few weeks ago a funeral sermon on his life-long friend, Dr. Horatius Bonar.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—Dr. Somerville visited Canada in 1876, as a delegate to the General Assembly in Toronto, and also for the purpose of engaging in evangelistic services in different parts of the country. He preached in Knox Church on the Assembly Sabbath to an over-

flowing congregation, and referred in pathetic terms to his having occupied that pulpit thirty years before. His theme was "The love of God," as manifested in His Son Jesus Christ—able, and willing, and mighty to save to the uttermost, whosoever believeth in Him. It was noticed that although he entered the pulpit in his gown, he threw it off before he began his sermon, and kept his audience spell-bound with a torrent of eloquence which was listened to by no one with greater interest than the pastor of the church, Dr. Topp, who was heard to say at the close of the service, "We old fashioned ministers do not know how to preach."

The American Board.

THE eighteenth anniversary of this great Society was held at New York in October. Dr. R. S. Storrs was re-elected to the Presidency. Total receipts for the year \$686,000. Expenditures are kept within income. The Board ask an addition this year of \$200,000. The work of the Board has shown a steady if not very rapid advance. Last year a Committee of fifteen was appointed to consider certain grievances of parties anxious for change. Friends of the "Andover School" have been agitating for a place in the service of the Board for men holding "advanced" views with regard to the Heathen. The fifteen reported against any change,—for after patient investigation they found the malcontents few and divided.

The Committee has been continued another year. This year a Committee of nine has been appointed to consider the methods of administration at Boston. It is against the Boston men that the hottest fire of the lovers of change is directed. The "Andover" men will not be satisfied with anything short of a revolution, but a revolution they will not be able to bring about. It seems that of late years the students of the New England seminaries do not apply for service in the foreign field as they were wont to do, and the blame for this is laid upon the Board for its orthodoxy. Happily none of the evils predicted by the lovers of change have yet befallen the Board. Its revenues are increasing, and its strength is developing in heathendom. The reports of the Secretaries, Drs. Clarke and Smith, were encouraging in their tone as they were extensive in their scope—sweeping over all lands and giving details of the work in papal countries, Bulgaria, India, Japan, Asia Minor, Africa, China, and the islands of the sea. The number of missions is 22; of stations, 93; out-stations, 1,023; preaching-places, 1,069. The labourers employed include 177 ordained