

Religious Intelligence.

The Free Church.

It is proposed to establish a regular Mission in the Holy Land, in the region of the Lebanon. The children of the church are asked to contribute a New-Year's Offering of a £1000, to erect the necessary buildings, and it is hoped that these will shortly be occupied by an ordained Scottish minister. We look upon this enterprise with great interest. It will give us a direct connection with the country which is the Christian's fatherland, and it will help to put a final stop to the persistent efforts made to disparage the school work which has so long been going on among the Mountains.

The Jewish committee is on the outlook for a missionary to take the place of Mr. Moody at Pesth. Somehow the conversion of Israel has not had of late the place it used to occupy in the thoughts and heart of the church. We have been so much engrossed with other things that the "grafting in again of the natural branches" has not been deeply interesting us; although no one who reflects on how the bringing in of the Jews is associated in the Word with great blessings for the Gentiles, can for a moment imagine that it is safe for us to treat this work with indifference. The condition of our own mission at present is well worth considering. Mr. Moody leaves the Pesth institution in a state of high efficiency, and proceeds to labour in Prague, which is, in some respects, the most important sphere for Jewish work in the world—being called, in fact, "the Oxford of Judaism." Mr. Van Andel, on the other hand, carries his energy to Amsterdam, and there enters upon the labours of Mr. Meyer. While Mr. Tomory and his associates in Constantinople are appealing for help to erect new missionary premises, which have been rendered insufficient by the very success which has attended their efforts.

Dr. Duff's evangelistic lectures appear to be bearing their expected fruits. The ordination, a fortnight ago, of Mr. Hector for Calcutta is the last of a pretty long series of events of the same kind which have taken place of late. At least seven of our recently licensed Free Church students have, within the last six months, devoted themselves to foreign missionary work. We are glad to learn, also, that there is a revival of interest in the Colonies, our Committee having more applications for appointments from suitable men than they can at present meet. Our friend, Mr. Bruce of Auckland, will be glad to hear this.

There is a good attendance at all our

Colleges this year. The number of matriculated students is, in *Edinburgh*, 118; in *Glasgow*, 84; and in *Aberdeen*, 32. Of these about 40 speak Gaelic. The specially interesting thing, however, is, that in New College there are no fewer than 20 strangers, viz., 7 from Ireland, 1 from Wales, 1 from Canada, 1 from United States, 4 from Nova Scotia, 3 from Bohemia, 1 from Hungary, and 1 from the Scottish United Presbyterian Church.

United Presbyterian Church.

An association has been formed, consisting of about 300 U. P. elders, in Glasgow, whose object "shall be to aid in the efficient discharge of the duties of the eldership; to extend the Church of Christ especially among the non-church-going population of Glasgow; and generally to confer on matters affecting the welfare of the U. P. Church. Between £3000 and £4000 have already been subscribed to a fund of £10,000 for evangelistic services and aiding church extension in the city and suburbs. The Elders' Association has come to the conclusion that four or five U. P. Churches should be planted at once in various localities in Glasgow. As similar associations have already been formed by brethren of the Free and Established Churches, the hope may reasonably be entertained that the churches are wakening to a sense of their duty, and that as a result of it the dark places of Glasgow will soon be illuminated by the preaching of the Word.

Several of the existing U. P. Churches are at present engaged in the erection of new places of worship in Glasgow. On the South side of the city new churches are being erected in Cumberland Street (Mr. Fraser's) and in Elgin Street (Messrs. M'Rae and Jackson's); in the centre of the city in Duke Street (Mr. Crawford's), and in Albert Street (Mr. Brunton's); and in the north side of the city in Carrington Street, Great Western Road (Mr. Pirret's), and at Springburn (Mr. Johnstone's).

It is pleasing to bear witness to so much activity, but in a city where, on the most reliable statistics, it is demonstrated there are 100,000 Roman Catholics, and 130,000 living in total neglect of gospel ordinances, it is all required, and even the combined exertions of all the Protestant Churches in Glasgow would scarcely be able to overtake the ignorance and indifference which prevail to so frightful an extent.

The following ordinations have taken place—Mr. James George, at Gateshead-on-Tyne; Mr. Jhon McRath, at Aberchirder.—Mr. John Young has been licensed.