

a reaction and an increase. In the London District, for instance, the Hinde-street Circuit had returned to the Conference 800 members more than were found in it at the ensuing September Quarterly Visitation of the Classes—the decrease having occurred between March and September, 1851. So it has been with other disturbed Circuits. The number on trial for membership is also encouraging. The greatest harmony seems to have prevailed in the District Committees. The lay members and the Ministers were found earnestly co-operating in the promotion of the word of God; and it is gratifying to find that the case we recorded last week, of a surplus amount of Yearly Collection in the London District, is not the only one, or the largest contribution voluntarily made in the Districts for the support of dependant Circuits. Several other Districts have reported very favorable in this respect; in the Manchester District there is a surplus, above the apportioned amount, exceeding £170. From the accounts given of the improved spiritual state of the Societies, and from the more than ordinary number of conversions which have recently taken place, both in town and in the country, the expectation is now general that “the time to favour Zion, yea, the set time has come.”—*London Watchman.*

Religious Anniversaries in France.

The Paris correspondent of the *London Watchman*, under date of May 14th, says:—
These interesting meetings have been marked this year by the manifestation, on more than one occasion, in the meetings themselves, of a spirit of prompt and ready sacrifice, to which we have not been accustomed hitherto, and they are encouraging, if they are viewed, as I think they ought to be, as evidences that our education in evangelical voluntarism is advancing.
For example, at the anniversary of the society which directs and supports the agricultural colony of Sainte Foy,* it was stated that several parents of vicious children, who have never been brought before any of the tribunals of the country, had applied for their reception into the colony, in the hope of their moral improvement, and “that not one of them had been received,” the funds of the society not permitting it! One of the speakers recommended the case of these juvenile culprits to the charity of any persons who could give or raise a sum yearly of 200 francs, (£12), for which sum they might be received into the colony, without encroaching on the funds of the society, which have been collected and given for another object. On this, a young man, a Wesleyan, offered to be one of ten to raise the sum necessary for the board of one such youth, and to find the other subscribers, recommending the young ladies to do as much for one of their sex. This was done, and before the end of the meeting, six such bursaries were subscribed, and means provided, which may probably result in the salvation of half a dozen youths of either sex from practices which, if left unchecked, would probably bring them to a shameful end and an early grave!
In a way very similar, 3,000 francs (£120 sterling) were subscribed at the meeting of the Central Evangelical Society for a church at Eclisac, a village near Troyes, in which there has been a remarkable anti-Papist movement; and 2,500 francs (£100 sterling) in the meeting of the Society for Promoting Primary Instruction among the Protestants of France, towards the purchase of a house for the excellent director of their Normal school. May these and similar fruits of righteousness abound more and more among us for the glory of God and the salvation of souls!
For some years past, we have profited by the gatherings at Paris of pious Ministers and private Christians, for the Annual Meetings, to exchange thoughts with them on different subjects connected with the deepening or extension of the work of God. The mornings, before twelve, have been consecrated to what we call pastoral meetings, though not confined strictly to pastors. They are of two sorts: one general, for all denominations of Christians who choose to attend; the other confined to the Ministers and members of the two national churches (those whose pastors receive a salary from the State,) Lutheran and Calvinist. The former three days of the meetings were given to the general pastoral meetings, the latter to the State Churches; both were held in a very convenient room at the Church of the Oratoire (Reformed).
This year, as you will readily suppose, these conferences turned on the present position of Protestantism in France. In the two kinds of pastoral meetings, from sixty to seventy Ministers of the gospel were present. In the first or mixed meetings, there were more than fifty. The question examined, as finally agreed on, was this:—“The present position of Protestantism in France, in face of the Church of Rome; the dangers which threaten it, and the means of action and defence, as respects the press, schools, and religious liberty.”
There was a perfect liberty of discussion, not the least constraint observable; several cases of oppression and injustice were described, which displayed the unconquerable malignity of Rome, and her skill in appropriating circumstances of every kind to the accomplishment of her designs. But no apprehension was felt that she would be ultimately successful, nor the least disposition manifested to yield any ground to her. The impression made, as far as I could judge of it, was this, that, politically, the Romish Church is the strongest power in the world, but weak as water before God and his truth, and that in that truth we might confidently effect the victory. The pious members of the meeting showed that their reliance was on “the power of godliness,” and in view of that power everything like discouragement seemed removed from every mind.
From a consideration of the facts of oppression which were brought forward, it appeared that they were the acts of inferior municipal authorities, or of ignorant soldiers “dressed in a little brief authority,” under the rule of martial law; and the general impression was made, that the present government is not, and will not, be hostile to religious liberty, as such.
The meetings of the clergy of the two national churches were very stormy. They were occupied during five days with the decrees of the 26th of March last, by which the Reformed Churches of France are put, so to speak, in the hands of a Central Council, which itself will, of course, be in the hands of government. Several of the members of the Central Council were present, (especially its president, Admiral Baudin,) and might learn what is the state of public opinion with respect to those decrees. The vote by which these deliberations terminated, and which was taken unanimously, is as follows:—
“The Conference, while it acknowledges the benevolent intentions of the government in the decree of the 26th of March, is of opinion, that the Reformed Church,—regretting what is hasty and irregular in that decree,—should make every reserve in future relating to her religious independence, and demand that in future, none of her interests may be regulated without her concurrence.”

Lay Delegation.

Mr. Raymond, from the committee on Lay Delegation, submitted the following report to the Conference on the M. E. Church:—
The Committee to whom were referred the petitions and memorials on the subject of lay delegation, respectfully beg leave to report:—
That they have examined the memorial and address presented by the Delegates from the Convention in favour of lay delegation, held in Philadelphia in March last, and also the address presented by the delegates from the Conference of laymen, held in Philadelphia during the present month, in opposition to that movement, and also the petitions and memorials presented to the Conference from various parts of the church chiefly against any alteration of the present economy of the Church.
They have also heard with pleasure the statements made before the committee by the delegates from the Convention and from the Conference, and they desire to bear testimony to the testimony to the Christian spirit and the devotion to the interests of the church, especially as to its itinerancy and Episcopacy, manifested by the various speakers who represented both these bodies.
After having fully considered the petitions and arguments presented, and having examined the probable effect the introduction of lay delegates into the General and Annual Conferences would have upon the interests of the church, your committee are unanimously of opinion that such a change is inexpedient. As this subject has been on various occasions in the history of our church fully discussed, your committee deem it unnecessary to enter at present into any argument in support of their views. While they highly appreciate the spirit which characterizes the movement of those brethren who advocate a change, and while they most ardently desire the full and cordial co-operation of the laity and ministry in all our enterprises, still they are fully convinced that the proposed change would not be advantageous to the church.
Your committee must also add that they doubt whether any other system has ever secured the co-operation of the laity with the ministry more efficiently than has the Methodist economy. Our fathers were men pre-eminently distinguished for their “works of faith and labours of love,” and the same spirit is still manifested in their sons in the Gospel. There is a wide field for activity presented in the various offices and agencies employed in the church; this sphere is constantly widening, and a large discretion is already accorded to the various Annual Conferences in reference to financial arrangements.
Your committee have also ascertained, both from the petitions presented and from the facts within their own personal knowledge, emanating as they do from all sections of the work, that there is a strong opposition in the great mass of

of membership to the proposed change. They therefore present the following resolution.
Resolved,—That it is inexpedient so to alter the economy of the church as to introduce lay delegation into the General and Annual Conferences.
The Report was adopted.
Conversions to Protestantism in Germany.
As a counterpoise to the reports of the numerous conversions from the Protestant Church to Romanism, the following statistics will not be uninteresting:—According to official reports, 648 persons renounced Catholicism and embraced Protestantism, in Silesia, last year. Of these 648 persons, 260 were adults, and the remainder had already been confirmed. Independently of these, 466 Roman Catholic parents had their children baptised in the Protestant Church in the year 1851. These figures are higher in comparison than in the previous year 1850, for in the official list for that year only 508 converts were entered, of whom 159 were adults. In that year also 187 children of Roman Catholic parents were baptised in the Protestant Church in Silesia. It appears that many persons who had joined the so-called German Catholic Churches, are now going over to the Protestant Churches, on account of the great obstacles which have been put in the way of the German Catholics.
In the East Indian Mission thirty-five ministers are engaged in connection with the Baptist Missionary Society, having under their care churches numbering upwards of 2,000 members, of whom about 1,700 are converts from heathenism or Mahomedanism. The balance due by this Society last year to the treasurer was £5,715 11s. 4d.; the total receipts for the present year were £19,116 11s. 9d.; the total expenditure, £18,088 6s. 11d., leaving a balance on the year's account in favour of the Society of £1,068 5s. 8d., by which amount the debt was reduced.
Turkish Burial Grounds.
During my ramblings about Constantinople and the suburbs, my attention has been frequently attracted by the strange and dilapidated appearance of the Mohammedan burial grounds. Much of the beautiful effect of the view from the Bosphorus arises from the groves of tall green cypress that mingle their foliage with the mosques and minarets, and stand out in bold relief on every hill-side. Wherever they cover any considerable extent of ground, it is to afford shade and protection to a public cemetery. The largest, perhaps, of all the Mohammedan burial grounds is that near Scutari, on the Asiatic side, which extends over a distance of three miles along the road. It is beautifully shaded by a thick forest of cypress, and forms, in the summer time, a favourite retreat for the idle and gossiping, who go over in great numbers from the city every afternoon. Here may be seen, in fine weather, groups of women of various castes, sitting on the graves, smoking their chibouks and sipping their coffee; others, half-naked, chattering and lively, endeavouring to kill time; all unattended, except by female servants, for it is beneath the dignity of the male population ever to associate in public with women. It is a curious picture of gay fluttering life, mingled with the mouldering tombs of the silent and ghastly dead. Often when disposed to indulge in reflection, I come over here to read the history of Time's doings, past, present, and to come; Time, who has brought low alike the great and the little, the grand Pasha and the meanest slave; who makes republics beneath the ground that factions cannot destroy; Time, who opens the mysteries of the future, and “feeds oblivion with decay of things.”
The Mohammedan tombstones are distinguished, for the most part, by a head or representation of the turban carved in stone. Many of these have been broken off or greatly defaced during the wars which have raged from time to time between the tribes of the East. The inscriptions are in the Arabic or Turkish characters, and in the more modern tombs are often covered with gilding. Of course I could read none of these histories of human virtues and human sorrows, but it is not likely that I lost a great deal of reliable information. The whole aspect of these cemeteries is desolate and ruinous in the extreme. There is no order or arrangement, except in the direction of the heads, which are all turned towards Mecca; the headstones seem to be scattered over the ground at random, pointed up in all directions, or lying prostrate in confusion. The earth is perfectly barren, and abounds in all sorts of abominations, too disgusting even for the gangs of voracious dogs that prowl among the abodes of the dead. It is a strange place, in every respect, to choose as a fashionable resort for pleasure and gossip; but, as the Turks say, in the name of the Prophet may they enjoy themselves *Corr. Nat. Intelligence.*

Wonderful Discovery.

The Fairmont (Va.) True Virginian says:—We are informed by Col. Haymond and others, that a portion of a regularly McAdamized road has been discovered on the opposite side of the river from this place. We have not seen it ourselves, but learn that it extends pretty much along the bank of the river.—Its width is about 16 feet, and the track well graded. The bed of stone seems to be about two inches thick, and made precisely after the plan of our McAdamized roads, the stone being broken to about the same size as that used for our roads. The discovery was made by the washing away of a hill side which partially covered the road. When, and by what race of people this road was made, is unknown at the present day, but it gives evidence of the existence of a population here at some former age of the world, as far advanced in civilization, or at least in the art of road making, as ourselves. There was found in the bed of the road the stump of a chestnut tree, which was ascertained to be 150 years old at the least, and how much older, our informant could not tell, as the stump was hollow. Here is food for thought. Who were the people that made this road—when did they make it—and what has become of them?

A Good Rule.

Dr. McClintock has on the cover of the *Quarterly Review* a standing notice to correspondents, to the effect, that he wishes nobody to send him an article, unless with the perfect understanding, that he shall amend or abridge as his judgment dictates. The rule has good sense in it, for if an editor has no discretion in regard to correcting and abridging articles, he might as well give his office up and go home, and let the foreman of the printing-office do the editing. Writers for newspapers, however, frequently become very much excited if their communications cannot be set, letter for letter, and line for line, just as they are written.

BY THE R. M. STEAMER.

The R. M. Steamer *America* arrived at this port on Tuesday last. The news is not important:—
ENGLAND.—Trade had been remarkably steady during the week previous to the steamer's leaving. Business was active in the manufacturing districts; general employment prevails, and in several occupations there is a scarcity of hands. Extension orders from the United States have been filled up at Birmingham and Nottingham; producing at the former firmness in iron, and at the latter elasticity in hosiery. The temporary rise in wool has not been sustained. The weather has been most favourable to the growing crops.
A serious accident occurred at the Colliery, Carmarthen. The men mined too near the canal, which suddenly burst in upon them in an overwhelming flood and 26 were drowned.
The news from India by the Overland Mail, is at once gratifying and important. A blow has been struck which will speedily bring the Burmese war to an end. Rangoon and Matarban have been taken.
FRANCE.—The *Moniteur* announces that persons will be no longer allowed to approach the President when he goes out to deliver petitions. On Monday the President spoke with warmth to a deputation of merchants in favour of the maintenance of peace, and declared that no consideration short of a deep sense of duty to his country should induce him to do, or act, or speak a word of a nature to throw doubts on his pacific intentions.
SWITZERLAND.—The greatest excitement prevails in Fribourg. It is true that M. Charles has been arrested. He has been removed to Fribourg for greater security. Several more arrests have been made, both in Fribourg and the neighbourhood.
The *Gazette du Tessin* announces that the reply of the Federal Council to the advances of France, in favour of a literary treaty, is, that the council has not thought it right to make any engagement without the concurrence of the other cantons.
EGYPT.—A letter from Alexandria in the *Paris Public*, dated May 7, says,—“The Pacha has paid the Sultan £275,000 sterling in consideration of the right of life and death being left to him. He has further engaged to pay immediately half a million on account of the million claimed from him by the family of Mehemet Ali. People ask how he will manage to procure the £800,000 sterling which he requires for the construction of the railway.”
TURKEY.—The *Courrier de Marseille* publishes a letter from Bagdad of the 9th ult., which states that an insurrection had broken out in that province. The communications were intercepted, and the mails could not be forwarded but with an escort of 100 or 200 horsemen. The Arabs are masters of the country from Mosul to the Persian Gulf.