

The new congregation resolved to call the late Dr. Burns, of Paisley, nay, actually called him, and had made arrangements for building a new church. Before anything was done a proposal came from the 'York Presbyterian Church,' suggesting that the two bodies should unite and form one church, it being understood that Mr. Harris was willing to retire on an annuity. This was eventually arranged. Mr. Harris retired, but still kept up his connection with the congregation as one of the ruling elders to the very last. Mr. Harris was of a modest, retiring disposition, with no desire to push himself into notice. He saw the city of his adoption grow from the small insignificant York of 1823 to the large and beautiful Toronto of 1873; while the congregation, composed of twenty-eight members, to whom he administered the communion for the first time, on the second Sabbath of September, 1823, has become one of the largest and wealthiest in Ontario—not merely of the Presbyterian, but of any denomination. He has passed away at the ripe age of four-score, after a useful and blameless life, respected by all as a sterlingly upright man, and a consistent minister and member of the Canada Presbyterian Church, of which he has long been honoured as one of the original pioneers and founders. Another of the links which connected the Old York of the past with the Toronto of the present, has thus gone. Comparatively few remember Mr. Harris in his days of active ministerial work; but many will miss from our streets the 'good grey head,' and in days to come his name will be mentioned with honour among those who, in the early times of Canada's struggle, did good service as a preacher of the Gospel, and as an active modest promoter of everything calculated to improve the community in a social and intellectual, as well as a religious, point of view."

British and Foreign.

ITALY.

The progress of Bible distribution in Italy, especially at this stage of her emancipation, must be watched with deep solicitude by all who feel assured that the Scriptures are the *Magna Charta* of religious and civil liberty. The accompanying intelligence, taken from the September number of the *Monthly Reporter* of the British and Foreign Bible Society, is of a most gratifying character. It depicts the condition of religious life in that country, and presents an urgent appeal for a more extensive dissemination of God's Holy Word in that land. Although the article is somewhat lengthy, yet—after carefully perusing it—we did not feel at liberty to make any abridgment.

"The wonders of God's Providence are only to be equalled by the wonders of His grace. Desolation and distress are often the channels along which His mercy flows most freely, and though he may turn a fruitful land into barrenness for the wickedness of them that dwell therein, yet does He often convert the curse into a blessing, and into the dark places of temporal misery shed the bright beams of spiritual light and love. These truths may be exemplified by the record which Mr. Bruce has furnished of Scripture distribution in a locality which last winter was laid waste by a flood. The Po and the Ticino having overflowed their banks, they carried desolation over a large portion of the surrounding country, and Mr. Bruce, thinking the opportunity a favourable one for impressing the minds of the sufferers from this calamity,