

papers were read bearing upon the distinctive phases of the total abstinence question to which they were devoted. On Wednesday evening a great public meeting was held in Exeter-hall. Besides the men in this country who have long taken a leading part in the movement, such as Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Mr. G. Thompson, and many others whose names are equally familiar, several from abroad who feel an interest in it, and who happen just now to be in London, were present, including Baron Lynden, Judge Heemskerk, Drs. Trall and Youmans of New York. Judge Marshall, and others. After addresses from Mr. W. Lawson, M. P., Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Mr. E. Backhouse, a member of the Society of Friends, Dr. Lees, who characterised the sale of intoxicating drinks as "the concentration of all iniquity," Mr. G. Thompson, and other gentlemen, resolutions were passed to the effect that the practice of total abstinence from "intoxicants" was the only safe and sufficient ground for a permanent temperance reformation; that in order to accomplish such a reformation, and realize the blessings of a sober community, the traffic in intoxicating drinks must be rendered illegal.

**ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS IN AUSTRALIA.**—The following statistics show the strength of the chief religious denominations in Victoria for 1861 and 1857 respectively:—

Religious Denominations.	1861.	1857.
Church of England and Episcopalian Protestants.....	205,695	157,819
Free Church .....	454	218
Protestants (not otherwise defined).....	5,919	15,321
Presbyterian Church of Victoria.....	5,052	—
Church of Scotland .....	36,917	27,828
Free Church of Scotland and Free Presbyterians.....	21,219	19,341
United Presbyterian Church. ....	16,734	9,315
Other Presbyterian Churches .....	346	253
Presbyterians (not otherwise defined).....	6,835	8,443
Wesleyans, Wesleyan Methodists, and Methodists...	40,799	24,740
Primitive Methodists.....	3,775	2,044
Wesleyan Methodist Association and United Methodist Free Churches .....	1,146	791
Bible Christians.....	651	268
Other Wesleyan Methodists.....	140	145
Independents or Congregationalists .....	12,777	10,732
Baptists .....	9,001	6,412
Lutherans and German Protestants .....	10,643	6,488
Unitarians .....	1,430	1,462
Society of Friends.....	273	325
Calvinists and Calvinistic methodists.....	650	468
Other persuasions.....	1,257	1,304
Roman Catholics .....	107,610	70,152
Catholics (not otherwise defined) .....	2,219	6,348
There were also in 1861, 24,551 Chinese against 23,390 in 1857.		

A bill for the abolition of State aid has been introduced by the Government into the New South Wales Legislature, and been read a first time. It proposes that endowments shall cease with the death of the present recipients.

The Church and School Lands Bill has, in the same Legislature, placed the Government at issue with a section of its former supporters. These glebe lands were originally granted to the Church of England, but the corporation endowed with them was dissolved, and the lands, in the terms of the charter, reverted to the Crown. A party—especially the party adverse to State endowments of religion—contend that when the Crown resumed the lands the trust ceased; but the