

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

MISSIONARY AND ECCLESIASTICAL.

MEETING OF VAUDOIS SYNOD.—The annual meeting of the Synod of the Waldensian Church, took place at La Tour on Tuesday, the 18th of May. Since the year 1851, when, by the withdrawal of the royal prohibition, the public were, for the first time, admitted to its meetings, it was remarked there never had been a Synod at which so few Christian brethren from other churches were present as at the one just concluded. As the representatives of Scotland, there were a deputation commissioned by the Free Church, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Stewart, David Kay, Alexander H. Burn Murdoch, and Patrick Tennant, Esq. England remained unrepresented, so far as regards her clergy, this year. Ireland was represented by the Rev. Mr. Day, an excellent minister of her established Church. M. Bunsen, Secretary to the Prussian Legation in Turin, and son of Chevalier Bunsen, was again present this year with his lady, and from the interest he takes in the Alpine Church, his face is always welcome.

The Synod was opened by public worship, conducted by M. Gay, pastor of Villar, who preached an excellent sermon from 1 Cor. xvi. 14:—"Let all your things be done in charity." After the public service the Synod was constituted by prayer and immediately proceeded to the election of the officers of the Synod. M. Meille, Italian pastor at Turin, President; M. Pilatte, of Nice, Vice-President; M. Muston, of Bobbi, Secretary, were chosen.

The first subject which the Synod entered into full discussion upon was the Home Mission, and the efforts made for increasing and deepening the knowledge of spiritual things in the parishes of the Waldensian Valleys. Several of the pastors spoke with much depth of feeling on this interesting topic; and M. Pilatte adverted with much power to the dead and formal condition in which the majority of worshippers in their various congregations were plunged.

On Thursday, 20th, Dr. Stewart and Mr. Burn Murdoch addressed the synod in French, on behalf of the Free Church deputation, and Mr. Day on behalf of the Established Church of Ireland. The report given in to the Synod on the Evangelization of Italy was very encouraging, and showed, that notwithstanding the absurd reports about the Italians not being willing to receive the gospel at the hands of the Waldenses, applications were being continually made to them from the villages in the neighbourhood of their stations in Piedmont for instruction in religious matters.

MISSIONARY CONFERENCE IN INDIA.—Last April the whole Missionary staff of the European Protestant Churches labouring in Southern India assembled in Conference at Cotacamund. The discussions ranged over all the questions as to the best way of conducting missions with the greatest promise of efficiency and success. The opinions of such a body must carry great weight. The deliverances may be regarded as embodying the united missionary mind of Southern India on the various topics discussed. The Church at home will be thankful for such a help at the present crisis. Great harmony of feeling and unanimity of sentiment appears to have pervaded the Conference. It was agreed on before the recent outbreak, and its meeting surely providential at a time when so many look to India with fresh interest and greatly deepened feeling. This is not the first time that such Conferences have been held; and we hail them as tokens for good to all the missions. They draw forth prayer. They strengthen faith. They promote brotherly love. They enlarge the views of the missionaries. In short the friends of heathendom at home may well be encouraged by such harmonious assemblings.

The proposal to hold this Conference originated with the missionaries at Bangalore in 1856, and, the missionaries in other parts of Southern India having signified their cordial approval of the plan, a list of subjects for the consideration of the Conference was agreed upon, and, after delegates had been chosen by the various societies, several were appointed to prepare papers on specified subjects, which should introduce the discussion of the topic at the meetings of the Conference. Besides these, it was agreed that a brief statistical and general paper, presenting the chief points of interest in the past history of each mission, or circle of missions, should be brought before the Conference, not for discussion, but for information and after reference, as well as for encouragement.

The historical and statistical papers read to the meeting, as well as all the papers on questions for discussion, and the resolutions of the Conference on the subjects, will in due time be published, and will, it is believed, form a most valuable as well as highly interesting volume on South Indian Missions.