

Premier wishes to hand Scotland over to the Episcopal as being the one true Church. Such were the charges, sustained, as it appeared, by quotations from recent works. There is no doubt that the Church question will form a very important factor in the coming election in this country. Two interesting conventions have been held in the Queen's Rooms, Glasgow, lately—the one on the "Deepening of Spiritual Life," the other being the annual gathering of the British section of the Evangelical Alliance. Both were well attended, and each left its own blessing upon the community. At the Alliance I had the pleasure of meeting, on the stairs, the Rev. J. Fraser Campbell, now with his devoted wife, and the Rev. Mr. Murray, on their way to Indore. For the next few weeks we shall hear little besides election cries, manifestoes and counter-manifestoes, until the great public settle the fate of contending statesmen. Amid the contest is heard the voices of the Churches, "Who will prevail?"—D.

Principal Pirie of Aberdeen University is dead at the age of 81. Dr. Pirie was for some years minister of the parish of Dyce, and was appointed Professor of Divinity in Marischal College, Aberdeen, in 1843, and minister of Greyfriars, Aberdeen, in 1846. At the union of the colleges in 1860, he was appointed Professor of Divinity and Church History in the United University. In 1877 he was appointed Principal and Vice-Chancellor. In his younger days Dr. Pirie took a prominent part in ecclesiastical affairs. He was one of the ablest debaters in the General Assembly. The Presbyterian Church of England is making a determined effort to establish churches in the university towns of Oxford and Cambridge. One gentleman in the east of Scotland has offered \$5,000 towards the enterprise. One reason for the movement is that a very considerable and an increasing number of Scottish students are now attending these famous English universities. The Bible Society has sold in nine months 950,000 copies of the penny New Testament. A serious disturbance has taken place in southern Formosa. Mr. Barclay, one of the missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of England, has been shamefully treated by an unruly mob, and the native converts have been very roughly handled. Happily, there has been no loss of life. The behaviour of the native Christians, in very trying circumstances, is said to have been admirable.

CANADA.—The most far-reaching event that has yet transpired in the history of the country took place last month—the completion of the railway through British territory from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is almost impossible to over-estimate the importance of this gigantic undertaking to the country and to the Empire at large. If the Churches of Canada

do not receive a full share of the benefit, it will be their own fault. The Episcopalians have been lately entertaining two distinguished visitors—Archdeacon Farrar of Westminster Abbey and the Rev. Mr. Haweis of London. Dr. Farrar is perhaps best known through his writings. His book on "Eternal Hope," which departs very far from the generally accepted doctrines of the Protestant Churches on the future state, met with an enormous sale. His "Early Days of Christianity" was also very popular; but his most valuable works are his "Life of Christ" and "St. Paul's Life and Travels." Mr. Haweis evidently belongs to the Broad Church school. He is eccentric and clever. He is a grandson of that famous Dr. Haweis who had much to do with the formation of the London Missionary Society, in 1795, and who, along with Rowland Hill and a few other enthusiastic spirits, did so much for the cause of Foreign Missions at that time. The English Church in Canada is only now awakening to the importance of enlisting the sympathies of its adherents in direct missionary effort. As yet it has no foreign missions of its own, but contributes annually towards the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and the Church Missionary Society in England. The Bishop of Saskatchewan has appointed Rev. J. B. Richardson of London, Ont., to be an Honorary Canon of his missionary diocese and a member of his missionary council. Bishop Maclean is himself full of the missionary spirit. So is Dr. Sullivan, the Bishop of Algoma, whose occasional jottings in *The Canadian Missionary* are exceedingly interesting. The General Board of Missions of the Methodist Church met in Halifax in October.

The total number of Domestic missions is given at 443, missionaries 444, total paid agents 444, members 38,870. There are 47 Indian missions, 33 missionaries to Indians, 14 native assistants, 27 teachers, 12 interpreters, total paid agents 86, members 2,786. There are 12 French missions, 11 missionaries, 2 native assistants, 3 teachers, total paid agents 16, members 230. There are 8 foreign missions, 15 missionaries, 6 native assistants, total paid agents 21, members 465. Total missions 510, missionaries 503, native assistants 22, teachers 39, interpreters 12, total paid agents 567, members 43,401. The net income from regular sources was \$17,412.77. The net ordinary expenditure was \$202,042.52, the deficit is \$21,729.75.

The Twentieth Provincial Convention of Sabbath-schools was held in Stratford, Ont., in October. The Secretary's report showed that, in addition to 176 Institute services, a great deal of very valuable work had been done. The proceedings were throughout deeply interesting.

IRELAND.—Several Presbyteries have already made nominations for the Moderatorship of next Assembly. So far, three names have been mentioned: the Rev. Robert Ross of Londonderry, the Rev. Alexander Gray, LL.D., of Belfast, and the Rev. Thomas Armstrong of Ballina, the Superintendent of Mission Schools in Connaught. The first named is the most likely candidate. Mr. Ross will make a worthy Moderator. The coming elec-