

The Evangelical Mission Church of Belgium.

In the Annual Report recently published, M. Anet gives the following resume of the year's progress of the Evangelical Society:—

"The actual number of our congregations and stations stands at 18 or 19. This number increases, slowly, it is true, but without interruption. It has now during a long time been given us to found every year a new station; and we have not experienced any real losses. It is true, that in 1859 the little flock of Taintignies, having united itself to a French congregation in the neighbourhood, and being in a condition to provide for its own edification, detached itself from our ecclesiastical body; but it nevertheless exists as it previously did. In many places, there is a sensible increase in the number of the members of the churches, and in that of the regular attendants; in others there is an increase, but a scarcely sensible one; in a third class, lastly, the flocks and the congregations maintain their previous numbers. We have nowhere been able to attest any decrease; and there is not a church or a station but comprises souls that have visibly passed from the darkness to the light, and from the power of Satan unto God. There have everywhere been some such happy returns from death unto life, and in some churches they have been numerous. Nevertheless, if the Spirit ceased to act in any one church or station, towards engendering faith and repentance, the gaps produced by death and migrations would not get filled up, and a sensible decline would immediately be produced: we are always in a state of conflict, and cannot subsist or maintain our position otherwise than by conquests."

The Gospel in Italy.

In Milan a greater number of people hear the Gospel preached than in any other town in Italy. Among the operative classes there is a strong disposition to hear the truth, and three able evangelists labor successfully in this quarter. Lagomarsino, late of Genoa, and Tealdo, late of Bologna, preach alternately, not only on the Sabbath, but on every week-day, in two large halls, containing 450 and 250 people respectively. They are both working men, with no special preparation for the ministry, but naturally gifted with eloquence, and well acquainted with Christian truth and are supported by the Geneva Society. The meetings are always crowded to the door. Elsewhere evangelistic services are very unpunctually attended, but here the worship begins with the striking of the clock, the hearers desirous of obtaining a seat being in their places for five or ten minutes previously. The most gratifying circumstance to an on-looker is that there is no

controversy, and no preaching from mere texts on the part of the evangelists, but the setting forth of Christ and a constant expounding of the Word of God at their reunions. The hearers bring their Bibles to church, and search for the passage referred to in a most intelligent way, and a good sale is made at the stalls for Bibles and religious books at the doors of the chapels.—*Correspondence of Evangelical Christendom.*

Canada.

A new Presbyterian Church was opened at Cobourg on the 21st of December. Three services were held, Rev R. Burns, D. D., preached in the morning, Rev. J. Laing, the pastor, in the afternoon, and Rev John King in the evening. About one thousand persons were present in the evening. Eight hundred and twenty can be seated with comfort in the new edifice, which is built in the early Gothic style. The *Canada Observer* says, "A law suit has for more than three years been going on at the instance of the Old Kirk Presbytery, of Toronto, with the view of the taking possession of the old Church, built about 30 years ago, from the congregation, and thus dividing the people. This effort has not been successful. They are now quite independent of any annoyance from this source."

Denmark—The Greenland Mission.

The chief field of the Danish Missionary Society is Greenland. Unhappily, the Greenlanders have acquired a taste for several European luxuries, especially coffee; and being like children as to the future, they secure no provisions for that part of the year when they are not to be obtained, and thus they often run the risk of starvation. In this condition they rely for help on the Danes, and this contributes to make them the more careless; yet their civilization goes onward. Municipalities have been introduced in Greenland, and Greenlanders now learn, under the guidance of the Government, to manage, to some extent, their own affairs. A printing-office has been established at Godthaab, and several books have been printed, illustrated with wood engravings executed by the natives. As to the spiritual interests of Greenland, it has had, for nearly twenty years, two seminaries, where natives are educated as catechists. Now, when all the Greenlanders have been baptized, there is a growing wish amongst the Danish friends of missions that they may have native pastors. The catechists already perform most of the ministerial duties.—They conduct the daily services, morning and evening; they preach at the numerous out stations, they baptize the children, instruct the catechumens for confirmation,