

Around the World.

Presbyterians.

A great Texan Presbyterian University, with an endowment of \$2,000,000 is now proposed, for the education of both men and women.

Lafayette College, U.S.A., has received \$125,000 from the Fayerweather estate, and has enrolled over one hundred new students for the term which began 16 Sept.

In 1876 there were 64 Presbyterian congregations in London; in 1896 there were 91, and the membership of the churches has been doubled. The money received for religious purposes has grown from nearly £55,000 to very nearly £100,000.

The "Original Secession Church," of Scotland, has three Presbyteries and 30 Congregations, two of the latter in Ireland. It supports a mission in India has a magazine of its own, and last year had 13 students. Its revenue was £1906, its expenditure £1567.

The Church of Scotland has a membership of 626,771, the Free Church of 283,659, and the United Presbyterian 191,381. In the Presbyterian Church of England there are 301 congregations and about 300 ministers. The membership is returned at 69,632; in the Sunday-schools there are 7,452 teachers and 80,969 scholars.

In the China Mission of the English Presbyterian Church there are 18 ministerial missionaries, 11 medical missionaries, 4 missionary teachers and 22 agents of Women's Missionary Association. The communion roll has risen during the past year from 4,650 to 4,946. The total membership, including adults and children, is 8,621. There are 15 native pastors supported entirely by their own congregations. There are 53 theological students and 47 native preachers.

A strange time of trial has come to the mission of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. among the Nestorians in Oroomiah, or Urumia, as it is more recently spelled. The Old Nestorian Church is likely to be absorbed by the Russian or Greek Church. Two priests from the latter have gone to Urumia, and the people, in hundreds, are expressing their desire to unite with the Greek Church. It is of course purely a political movement. As one of the Nestorians put it, they want to belong to the Church which has the biggest club. In other words Moslem tyranny is driving them to seek refuge in the Russian Church, and help from her strong arm. The people are wild with delight over the coming of the priests and benefits that they expect to receive. To the Protestant Christians it is a time of severe testing. They require a great deal of courage to stand fast, but one of the missionaries writes: "we do not fear the result."

Other Churches and Workers.

Prior to 1870, Protestants and their Bibles were not allowed to enter Rome.

The progress of education among the freedmen is seen in the fact that there are 2,000 colored physicians practising in the U.S.A. They have just held a convention at Washington.

Dr. Daniel Dorchester, a reliable church statistician, shows by published official reports that, from 1870 to 1894, the Roman Catholic population in the U. S. increased from 4,600,000 to 8,806,649, while during the same period the Protestant Church membership increased from 6,673,396 to 15,127,948.

Sabbath breaking does not have all its own way. An exchange says that Boston, New York and Pittsburg clubs refuse to play baseball on Sunday. Iowa is passing a law to prevent the profanation of the day. Minneapolis drove the game out of the city on Sundays. The noise is a nuisance. The tendency is demoralizing.

The Congregationalists are to have a world council in Boston, in 1899. Their first international council was in London, in 1891. The Boston one will be in session eight days, discussing questions relating to the modern aspects of Theology, Sociology, peculiar Congregational problems and the wide realm of missionary activity at home and abroad.

A new edition of the *Index Expurgatorius*, the list of books forbidden to be read by Roman Catholics, is being prepared at Rome. All books condemned before the close of the sixteenth century are still to be prohibited. The list from that time to the present is to be revised, but the reading of every translation of the Bible into the languages of the common people is to be condemned unless it has received the Pope's approval.

LI HUNG CHANG AND THE BIBLE.

One of the most interesting things we have read of the great Chinese statesman, who visited Canada last summer, is the following, by a Presbyterian missionary, at Peking, in the August *Church at Home and Abroad*, of a recent call which he made upon the viceroy:—

"At a recent visit I made to His Excellency, Li Hung Chang, I found him reading a beautiful, Russia-leather bound copy of the New Testament that had just been sent him by Rev. George Owen, of the London Mission. The old gentleman was so intent on his reading that he did not notice me for several minutes, and, as I could see the title of the book, I put up a silent but earn-