

being a native of the province, and a volunteer stepping forward to supply a want long felt and enter upon a most arduous and noble work, his visit to the churches ought to awaken in our minds a deep interest, and it is hoped that in many it may enkindle, and in more it may intensify, zeal in the support of Foreign Missions. The sending forth a missionary to the Isles of the Gentiles is the most important and solemn act a church can perform. It is a fulfilment of the Lord's last command upon earth, and recalls scenes depicted in the "Acts of the Apostles."

THE BISHOP OF CAPETOWN has consecrated a bishop in the place of Colenso. This will produce a strange collision between the spiritual and temporal power in the Church of England. Colenso is the bishop recognised by the "civil power," and is now in his diocese. The law must recognize him and him alone. He alone can enter his churches with episcopal authority. What will the new bishop do, and what will be the state of "the flock?" The shepherds are wrangling mightily. The metropolitan has also exposed himself to persecution by his act of consecration. It must be confessed that the bargain between Church and State, in the case of the English Church and her colonial branches, does not work well.

THE POPE is to hold a vast council this year at Rome, at which fresh plans for the spiritual subjugation of mankind will be concocted. The move for separate schools is made in the State of New York at the same time that it is made with us. Our legislators would need to mind what they are about. It is quite certain that the country does not wish separate schools—that they cannot afford to support them, and that they will not tolerate their imposition. The erection of the present school system has been a hard business, which could not have been attempted except after long delay and by a strong government. It has engendered, by its sweeping and absolute character, many strong feelings. To meddle with its integrity now, after such sacrifices, would be unwise, impolitic and unjust. A change of the nature proposed would produce a "sensation," of which men in power can have, at this moment, very little idea. We hope that we have heard the last of it. Common schools and separate schools cannot in justice exist in any country. In justice, the schools must either be all separate or all common.

AN excitement has been produced by a sermon of the Rev. Fergus Ferguson, a United Presbyterian minister in Dalkeith, against Burns' anniversaries. He denounced them strongly as favouring vice. Burns, he said, was a failure in everything but genius, and that was a gift which he abused. He failed as a son, a father, a farmer; an exciseman, a citizen, and as a husband; as a moral character; and at last died from the effects of intemperance. Mr. Ferguson's sermon was very able, and in most parts very true. There was nothing very extreme or fanatical about sentiment or expression. We may admire Burns without deifying him. A perpetual laudation of Burns must be dangerous and tempting to youth. Burns sunk deeper and deeper into the trough of vice. His depravity increased with his years. Byron redeemed his character, in some measure, by devoting his last days to the deliverance of Greece. Geo. Gilfillan has twice attacked Mr. Ferguson for his sermon, but we think with very little real force and power.—only it was popular to do so. The public were against Ferguson, and Gilfillan joins with the public. Such is the fashion of many now-a-days; but, if we mistake not, Burns' laudation, which has become a bore, has received a check, and Ferguson has, in a gallant manner, done the public a service which sooner or later would be recognized.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLE has introduced a new educational bill for Scotland, the ultimate effect of which is meant to be to work in all the denominational schools into the position of national schools having no connection with any religious body. We doubt very much the wisdom and success of this policy.