

# The Presbyterian Review.

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## OVER LAND AND SEA.

Rev. Dr. Warden furnishes us with the following statement of the receipts, to date, for the Schemes of the Church, with the receipts for the corresponding period of last year:—

Schemes.	Receipts to 1st Mar., 1896.	Receipts to 1st Mar., 1895.
Home Missions.....	\$46,821 34	\$42,446 92
Augmentation of Stipends.....	13,709 94	15,432 42
Foreign Missions.....	35,760 48	42,149 10
French Evangelization.....	13,093 83	15,875 84
Pointe Aux Trembles School.....	6,115 41	6,916 91
Widows' and Orphans' Fund.....	3,098 47	3,926 77
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund..	4,590 99	5,337 31
Assembly Fund.....	2,068 99	2,197 17

The present year 1896 is the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the completion of the Westminster Confession of Faith and a writer in the *Louisville Christian Observer* proposes that some special notice should be taken of the fact. He suggests that the various church courts of all grades, including the Pan-Presbyterian Council, should take some action to commemorate the event and avail themselves of the opportunity to increase the general knowledge as to the true history, importance and leading characteristics of that noble document. In spite of all the attempts to revise it and amend it there is no one of the post reformation creeds which has so strong a hold on the thought and conscience of the Protestant Church or is maintained with so much earnestness by its numerous adherents. Its day is not yet over.

Once more it has been proved that British rule means right rule. Recently there was a disposition on the part of Arab slave-dealers to ply their fiendish trade in territory over which Britain throws her shield. An army of 20,000 men was mustered and the trade routes were closed. Raids for slaves were begun, but Britain was on the alert. Lieutenant Edward Alston of the Coldstream Guards was sent at the head of 150 sikhs and negroes and 5000 contingents sent by the native chiefs. After three sharp engagements the Arabs were overthrown and many important Arab chiefs made prisoners, and so energetic have the repressive measures taken been, that terror has been struck into the hearts of the great slave dealers of that territory.

Considerable interest has been awakened by the passage of the aerolite which burst over Madrid last week. At Valencia the aerolite was observed in the form of a ball of fire, passing swiftly through the air in the direction of the capital. Considerable damage resulted from the explosion, and several accidents occurred on account of the panic. The aerolite was moving at a great speed, and was considered to be a good many miles distant from the earth.

The descent of such bodies, though rare, has occurred with greater frequency than would be imagined. The British Museum alone has specimens of more than three hundred, of which nearly two hundred were seen to fall. Certain stones, such as the black stone

worshipped at Emesa, in Syria, the Kaaba of Mecca, and the great stone of the pyramid of Cholula, in Mexico, owed their veneration to the belief that they had fallen from heaven. It has been suggested that the earliest image of Diana of the Ephesians, which "fell down from Jupiter," had taken the place of an actual meteorite.

The National Bible society of Scotland reports that an Italian colporteur recently found his arrival awaited by the family of an Italian marquis. The lady of the house spoke to him of the treasure she had found in the Scriptures, her only regret being that it had not come into her hands sooner. She had begun to gather her servants together to read the Bible to them.

Some new illustrations of the friendly spirit manifested by the Russian Government towards the Bible Society, says a contemporary, has just been made public. An agent visiting the constructor of the West Siberian Railway at once received free railway passes for himself and a colporteur. He was warmly welcomed, too, by the Bishop of Omskives, who wrote for him a commendatory letter. The Holy Synod has, moreover, announced that it proposes henceforward to allow the Bible Society a discount of 20 per cent, on Scriptures purchased from it. This means, it is stated, a rebate of £450 on a recent order.

A Statistician says there are six and a half million Jew on the face of the earth, of which 5,415,000 reside in Europe, 310,000 in Asia, 350,000 in Africa, 250,000 in America, and 12,000 in Australia.

The world renowned book publishing firm of MacMillan & Co. has suffered the loss of the second of its original founders, Alexander MacMillan, the survivor by many years of his brother Daniel, who died in 1857. They were simple peasants of Ayrshire, but they acquired such a love of books, as well as thorough knowledge of them, that they achieved rapid success when they established themselves in the book business at Cambridge. Loyal devotion to the Church, with upright and enlightened business methods, very soon placed their firm in the very front rank.

From the report of the fourteenth annual meeting of the Federal Life Assurance Company, held at the head office, at Hamilton, it will be seen that the company has had a most satisfactory year's business. The directors have been able to place before the shareholders figures which show that notwithstanding the depression of trade, which has told so severely on similar institutions, the affairs of this company are such as to call forth the satisfaction of all concerned. The volume of business has been considerable, and in the hands of the able management of the officers and directors there is every reason to look forward to a substantial increase in the near future.