

and standing of the clergy can only do so at the cost of the lay-members of the Church; and the movement in this direction has called out a powerful reaction in favor of a pure Presbyterian constitution. The election of elders to assist the pastor in administering church discipline, and in watching over the inner life of the Church found able supporters, and the real nature of Presbyterianism has been very fully exhibited to those who have had less distinct views on the subject. The nature of the deacon's office, and the general principles of a provision for the poor, occupied much of the time of the meeting.

**COUNCIL OF ENGLAND.**—In Birmingham, Canon Miller has been trying the experiment of a series of special services with a view to reach the working classes of that town. The results, it is said, are of a very encouraging kind. The services were held on the evenings of a whole week, and were preceded by prayer-meetings in a school-room. The congregations were overflowing on the first evenings of the week, and the number of artisans very large. The texts were such as these:—Hob. vi. 18, (The Refuge); John i. 17, (Grace and Truth); 2 Cor. v. 20, (Reconciliation); Luke xv. 2, (Receiving sinners); Matt. xxiii. 33, (Hell); Heb. ii. 3<sup>d</sup>, (Salvation). The Rev. Dr. McNeil, and Rev. J. C. Ryle took part in the services. Mr. Angell James was among Mr. Miller's hearers on one of the evenings.

Considerable commotion has been created by the efforts of Mr. Gladstone and others to procure a closer alliance between the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of England. At present the law prevents clergymen ordained by the Scottish bishops from holding preferment in England. Mr. Gladstone is anxious to procure the repeal of this law, while his endeavor is strenuously resisted by the evangelical party, on the ground that the change would interfere with the internal administration of the Church of England, and would establish a bond of brotherhood with a Church, some of whose bishops and leading men are notoriously inclined to Puseyism if not to Popery.

**LAY MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS IN SCOTLAND.**—Lay missionary movements have lately excited attention in two districts in the north of Scotland. One of these is conducted by a Mr. Brownlow North in the northern Highlands. This gentleman is an Englishman, a nephew of the Earl of Guildford, and son of the late Dr. Charles North, Prebendary of Winchester. He describes his past life in a manner which shows that the change in his own character is one of no ordinary magnitude. This imparts great additional earnestness to his addresses. Evangelical ministers of various denominations have invited him to exhort from their pulpits. The fervent earnestness of his appeals is described as very remarkable. In Aberdeenshire, a Mr. Gordon Furlong of London, lately a member of the Scottish Bar, has been the instrument of a work of conversion and revival. He has secured the sympathy of the neighbouring ministers, visits from house to house, and holds meetings for exhorting the people. It appears to be the desire of Mr. North and Mr. Furlong to aid the ministers of the gospel in their respective neighbourhoods in every way in their power. They have lately been holding joint meetings in Forfarshire, and have obtained the use of the churches of several denominations.

**ROMANISM IN RUSSIA.**—The Czar has promised that there shall be no more persecution of the members of the Romish Church. He has declined, however, the offer of a resident Papal minister; and all idea of a concordat is abandoned.

**CRIMINAL STATISTICS.**—An official list of youthful criminals in the Rhine Provinces of Prussia for the year 1855, exhibit the telling fact, that seventeen in every thousand Roman Catholics, and only seven in every thousand Protestants, were charged with crime during that period.

**FREE CHURCH COLLEGE AT HALIFAX N. S.**—The College and Academy were never in a more flourishing condition than they are this winter. In the College there are now 30 students, and a very fair proportion of them are young men of superior talents and energy; and what is still more pleasing, a number of them give undoubted tokens that they "love the Lord Jesus in sincerity."

The Academy, too, is well attended, and enjoys the services of three very competent Teachers, and an able accomplished Rector.

**ONE YEAR'S EXTENSION OF MISSIONS BY THE PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF MISSIONS, (O. S.) IN THE UNITED STATES.** Between fifty and sixty missionary labourers have already gone forth, or are to set out in a week or two for their different fields of missionary labour. Nearly twice as many as have ever been sent out by the Board in any one year before, and perhaps a larger number than has been sent out by any other missionary association in the same time. Several new stations have been formed in connection with the older missions; and the initiative has been taken for the establishment of six new independent missions. Of these, one is to the Kickapoo Indians of Kansas; another to the Otos of Nebraska; a third to the Blackfoot Indians along the eastern slopes of the Rocky mountains; a fourth in Bogota, the capital of New Grenada; a fifth was projected to Japan, but may not be carried into effect for some time; and the sixth for the Afghans of Afghanistan. >