

brew and Old Testament Exegesis, in the Free Church College, Aberdeen, by virtue of which Professor Smith had a seat in Presbytery. The effect of removing his name from the roll places Mr. Smith on the list of ministers without charge (of which no list is published), leaving him in a position to accept a call as minister of a congregation, but, in the meantime, ineligible to a seat in the Church courts, except as in the capacity of an elder. Mr. SANKEY has gone to England, and Mr. MOODY is to follow immediately. They contemplate holding an extensive series of evangelistic meetings in England, Scotland, and Ireland. STANLEY, the heroic American who sought and found Livingstone in the heart of the Dark Continent, was at last report lying hopelessly ill in the Centre of Africa. **DISESTABLISHMENT.**—Mr. Dick Peddie, M.P., has given notice that next session he will move in the House of Commons:—"That this House is of opinion that the maintenance of the Church Establishment in Scotland is indefensible on public grounds; that in the ecclesiastical circumstances of the country it is eminently unjust; and that a measure for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of Scotland ought to be passed at an early period." The chief difficulty the advocates of Disestablishment have to contend with is the admitted fact that the Established Churches of the realm are at the present time doing their work more faithfully and efficiently than at any previous period in their histories. The situation is entirely different from that which led to the disestablishment of the Church in Ireland. The most important event of the past month was the meeting of THE METHODIST ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE in the Old City Road chapel, London, where upwards of five hundred delegates from all parts of the world met to discuss Methodism in its varied aspects, both as to its internal organization and its relation to the leading theological and philanthropic questions of the day. Among the delegates were a number of eminent laymen as well as clergymen. The proceedings were largely attended, and a great deal of interest was manifested by the representatives of other denominations. In the Councils of the Presbyterian Churches at Edinburgh and Philadelphia, the discussions turned chiefly on the distinctive doctrines of Presbyterianism. In this meeting, as might have been expected, more attention seems to have been given "to strengthen the things which remain," or in other words, to deal with practical subjects affecting the working of the Church, such as, "Methodism a power in the State." Its Evangelical Agencies: The Itinerant System: Its Relation to the Sabbath-question, to Temperance and to Sabbath-

schools, and social reforms in general. The subject of "Higher Education," and the duty of the Church to maintain schools which are *Christian* in their influence and character, and also the importance of the special training of ministers in theological schools, and their education while engaged in pastoral and ministerial work, were dwelt upon with great earnestness. It was claimed that Methodism is essentially aggressive and missionary in its operations. The majority of speakers favoured the continuance of the present system of itinerant preachers. A similar expression of opinion was given in favour of lay-preaching. Improper amusements, dancing, and theatre-going were strongly condemned. The tone of discussion was thoroughly conservative as to the strict observance of the Lord's Day, and Methodism was emphatically pronounced to be the enemy of drink and all national evils—that true Methodism, indeed, was synonymous with true patriotism. It is stated upon what appears to be good authority, that the Wesleyan Conference of England at its last meeting felt constrained to reject no less than *seventy-two* candidates for the ministry, for the reason that work could not be found for such an addition to the ministerial ranks. A serious charge of HERESY has been preferred against Rev. Dr. Thomas, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Chicago. The testimony adduced is overwhelming against him and, if sustained, will be sufficient to convict him of disbelief in the Inspiration of Scripture, and of the doctrine of the Atonement, and of holding and publishing unsound views in reference to a future state of probation. The departure of *twenty-six* persons for foreign fields of labour, under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, was made the occasion of a very interesting farewell meeting in Boston, on 31st August. Some of them sailed next day from Boston, others from New York, the rest sail from San Francisco. They were nearly all from the far-West. Several of them were from home missionary families and churches. The seventy-second annual meeting of the American Board will be held on the 13th instant, at St. Louis. This Society has a large staff of very faithful and efficient missionaries. At a late meeting of the PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT, Australia, the Rev. W. Henderson gave notice of the following overture—Whereas provision is made in the Westminster form of Church Government, that besides pastors, teachers and other church governors, other fit persons, when it shall be deemed expedient, shall be members of the Synodical Assembly or Supreme Court of the Church; and whereas in the present circumstances of our Church it seems altogether expedient that we should