

DISESTABLISHMENT.—The Irish Church Bill seems to have paved the way for a far more extended system of disestablishment than it was supposed would be mooted for at least a long time to come. The principality of Wales is dissatisfied with the state of religious inequality under which its people are groaning, and a notice of motion has been given in the House of Commons by Mr. W. Williams, to grant a measure of relief similar to that granted to Ireland, the surplus funds arising from a disestablishment being devoted to a national and undenominational system of education.

In Scotland, also, the dissatisfaction which rate-payers, not belonging to the Established Church, have felt in being compelled to contribute towards the expenses of a body for which they have little sympathy, has culminated in a bill which Mr. McLaren has obtained leave to print for the abolition of compulsory Church-rates in Scotland.

In Jamaica, the glaring inconsistency of some 40,000 inhabitants, belonging to the Church of England, being in receipt of £19,630 for religious purposes, and 120,000, of other denominations, dividing between them the remaining £370 of the £20,000, contributed annually for the support of religious worship, is being rapidly remedied, perfect religious equality being about to be established in the Island.

Finally, a notice of motion has been given by Mr. T. Chambers, calling attention to the unsatisfactory position of the Church of England, with relation to the whole body of the English people. The object of the motion will be "to bring the Church into harmony with the feelings and principles of the country, and make it more efficient for the evangelization and instruction of the whole community."

THE ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL.—A letter has lately been written by the venerable Dr. Marle D'Aubigne to the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, of London, suggesting that there should be, on the part of Protestants, some great demonstration of Evangelical principles. At one time it was proposed to hold at Geneva a Protestant Council, simultaneously with the Council at Rome; but this proposal has been given up in the meantime. The suggestion of the venerable historian of the Reformation was considered by a number of friends in London, who have recommended that, wherever practicable, throughout the week beginning on Sunday, 5th Dec., UNITED PRAYER MEETINGS of all denominations should be held, and prayer be made without ceasing for the progress of the work of reformation now proceeding in Spain, France, Austria, Italy, and other long known centres of Romish influence; for the deliverance of the British Isles from the prevalence and extension of this influence, by the abundant out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, and a true conversion of souls to the knowledge of a pardoning Saviour.

AUSTRALIA—ENDOWMENT OF THEOLOGICAL HALL IN VICTORIA.—The Presbyterian Church of Victoria is engaged in raising a fund for the endowment of chairs of Theology. The work has been four years in hand, and has been carried on very quietly but successfully. The number of subscribers above £20 does not exceed 120, but their subscriptions exceed £12,000. The matter, having been thus nobly commenced, is to be laid before all the congregations of the Church. The number of Ministers in connection with the Church in Victoria is now 110, communicants 10,162, Sabbath-School children 14,391. In Queensland the General Assembly has taken steps for establishing a mission for the Polynesian laborers in the country.