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**British and Foreign.**

The Moravians give on an average \$12 per head yearly to Foreign missions.

The Kilmun "heresy case" has cost Dunoon Presbytery £107 for legal expenses.

About a dozen musical instruments are in use in the churches of the Dublin Presbytery.

The late Mr. W. J. McGifford has bequeathed £350 to the church at Hillsborough.

A new church, to be called the Clason Memorial Church, is to be built at Motherwell at a cost of £3,150.

Rev. W. M. Smith, who is leaving New Swindon for Australia, was presented with a cheque for £129.

The Tsar has not recovered from the shock he received by the coronation disaster and has been suffering from jaundice.

Rev. Dr. Thain Davidson will occupy the pulpit of the English Presbyterian Church at Colwyn Bay during August.

Fifty of the Pan-Presbyterian delegates visited Paisley and were conducted over the ancient Abbey by Dr. Gentles and Dr. Henderson.

The *Examiner*, a newspaper of San Francisco, starts the subscription list for the expenses of the great Christian Endeavor Convention of 1897 by contributing \$1,000.

The Hamilton Free Presbytery has presented an address to the Rev. David Ogilvy, M.A., the father of the Presbytery, who a few months ago resigned the charge of Dalziel congregation.

The Burmah State railway system—1,000 miles in length—has been sold to a syndicate for £6,000,000. This is reversing the policy adopted in India some years back of the State owning the railways.

Notwithstanding the violent controversy which arose over the alleged necessity of a Gaelic-speaking minister being appointed to Inverchaolain, the ordination of Rev. G. A. Stalker to that parish passed over very peacefully.

Dr. P. M'Adam Muir, of Morningside Church, Edinburgh, having intimated his desire to accept the call to Glasgow Cathedral, the Edinburgh Presbytery unanimously, but with regret, agreed to his translation to the West.

The Duke of Fife's Highland Castle, to take the place of Mar Lodge, which was destroyed by fire, is nearing completion, and was inspected by the Queen before she left Balmoral. It has cost £20,000, and will be lighted by electricity, the power being derived from a waterfall.

Rev. Samuel McComb, of Elmwood Church, Belfast, formerly of Reading, has given notice of his intention to resign the pastorate of the congregation, which he has held with great success during the past four years. Mr. McComb will proceed to Germany for further theological study.

Two distinguished Indian pilgrims to Mecca and Medina were assassinated at Jeddah by men in their own service, who had followed them secretly from Bombay, and afterwards committed suicide. The motive is supposed to be fanaticism, the murderers belonging to a different sect of shiaks.

Mr. Harrison, the British official who was arrested by a Venezuelan sub-commissary for alleged trespass on Venezuelan territory, while making a road, has been released, and the act disavowed by the Government. It is regarded as a good omen for the ultimate settlement of the boundary dispute.

R. D. Blackmore says he had offered his famous novel, "Lorna Doone," to nineteen publishers before it was taken. When brought out it fell flat, but soon after came the marriage of the Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne, and society people, thinking Lorna somehow had something to do with Lorne, bought the book, read it and liked it, then recommended it to their friends.

What is to be the effect mentally on this and succeeding generations of the multitudinous products of the press is an interesting question. At the opening of a new public library lately Lord Rosebery spoke of the decay of independent thinking. "The Press," he said, "with all its great merits, contributed to this decay. Being furnished every day from at least half a dozen quarters with the best thoughts of trained and able minds on the subject of the day in the daily papers, a man had no time to think, but become 'the walking reflex of the paper to which he happens to subscribe, or, what is more unfortunate still, of the many papers to which he happens to subscribe, which may produce a confused habit of brain.' Ready-made thoughts ought not, in a properly constituted community, to supersede independent thinking. Public libraries furnished a counter-irritant to the intellectual apathy which resulted from the quick succession of impressions made upon the public mind."

Dr. Barrett, the well-known English divine, speaking lately at a united meeting of Norfolk and Suffolk Baptists on the subject of the Reunion of Christian bodies, now so much discussed, expressed the following opinion, which we suspect almost every one of our readers will at once agree with: "One kind of union he regarded as hopeless. They were told that if Dissenters would only return to the Mother Church, England would be one. It utterly passed his comprehension how any minister of Christ should care to trace his succession through man like Pope Alexander VI., who accidentally took poison he had prepared for a cardinal, and whose life was an outrage on every law, human and Divine. With all respect for that venerable statesman (Mr. Gladstone), he could not understand how any one should care two pins whether a corrupt Church like that of Rome recognized English Orders or not. Still less could he understand, when the Divine Lord valued goodness before anything else, that there should be found men who deliberately stated that in the ministry learning, saintliness and the power to win souls went for nothing if there were not Episcopal ordination, and that a monster of iniquity like Alexander VI., or a corrupt, dissolute and drunken priest on whom a bishop's hand had been laid was a true minister of Christ, while men like John Howe, Richard Baxter and Charles Spurgeon were not. But it was hopeless to argue with men who held that doctrine. So long as it was conscientiously held reunion was impossible either with the Evangelical or the High Church party in the Episcopal Church."

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We won't vouch for it, but it is said that there is a young clerk in this city who makes it a special hobby to say bright things. But he has met his match. A bright young school-ma'am entered the store in which he works last Saturday and asked, in a most innocent way, for a bow. "I am at your service," replied the clerk. "Yes," said the young lady, eying him closely, "but I want a white one, not a green one." Then a sepulchral silence fell upon him.



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