

### THE RELIGIOUS WORLD.

During the month of May the anniversaries of nearly all the great religious societies have been held. We are glad to state that generally there has been "an advance all along the line." The followers of Christ have shown much zeal and liberality. More Bibles have been circulated than in any previous year. Missionaries have explored regions hitherto unknown. "Home Evangelization" has also been conducted with increasing zeal and devotion, both in Great Britain and America.

The "Old Catholic" movement is making progress. Thirty priests and a number of eminent Professors in German Universities have left the Church of Rome, or have been driven out of it, on account of the Infallibility decree. Additions to the number of excommunicated priests are made every week. One Bishop is expected to cast in his lot with the dissentients. In France the civic authorities oppress the priests who have thrown off the yoke by compelling them to put off the clerical attire under heavy penalties. The state thus, as of old, does police duty for the church. The opposition to the Ultramontanes is declaring itself more emphatically. In the south of France especially there seems to be a strong Gallican party. The Pope has condemned the "Old Catholics" as fools who are engaged in reviving old errors; but his statement of the case finds little sympathy in Italy.

Our readers have heard of the excommunication of four Bonn Professors by the Archbishop of Cologne. The Professors have replied. They quote the Archbishop's own statement to the Council: "It has never up to this time been held as right in the Church of God to promulgate new dogmatic definitions without the, at least, moral, unanimous consent of all the bishops present at a Council." They deny the claim of the recent Council to be a true Church Council. Even if it had been, they say, it could not enforce a dogma contrary to Apostolic doctrine and all Church teaching. They repudiate the Archbishop's sentence, quoting the words of Pope Gelasius I., "An unrighteous

sentence can injure nobody before God and His Church."

The Protestant movement in Spain is prospering. The first General Assembly of the Waldensian Church has been held in Florence. Rome is the scene of much evangelical activity.

Most interesting accounts reach us from Bulgaria of a general tendency in the Church of that country to shake itself free from the Greek yoke, and to become more Scriptural in its doctrines and practices. American missionaries have been labouring there for ten or twelve years, and the results are now beginning to be seen. The work among the Armenians in Asiatic Turkey continues to make most satisfactory progress.

The explorations in Palestine are bringing to light much that is of interest. Excavations have now been made near the foundations of the temple. Curious underground passages have been discovered; and it is expected that before long many important relics—possibly, also, historic inscriptions—may be traced. These explorations promise to be of the deepest interest to all students of the Word of God.

Christians throughout Evangelical Christendom have been praying together during the third week of May for the conversion of Roman Catholics, and for the success of the Gospel in heathen lands.

Revival tidings from many portions of the United States are very remarkable. Many thousands have been added to the churches.—The Methodist Church has, at its late conference, forsaken the old system of governing entirely by the clergy, and has admitted elders, "lay delegates," after the Presbyterian fashion.

The progress of the Gospel in Madagascar is truly wonderful. 63,000 were added to the mission churches in 1871.—Sixty Protestant congregations are now established in Mexico.

In England there is much excitement about disestablishment, religion in schools, and reform in the church. A strong party has endeavoured to get rid of the Athanasian Creed, but a far stronger party clings to it with increasing tenacity.—Professor