

water in their ablutions; nor did they cut their hair. They were most skilful archers, and were content with simple and frugal fare. Their horses were fed upon meat. The Arabs listened with wonder and incredulity to these strange reports. The mode of feeding the horses chiefly astonished them; and they refused to credit the assertion, until one of their number declared that he himself had seen horses in Arabia which were not only fed upon raw meat, but even upon fried fish.*

I will not trouble the reader with a detailed account of the alternate reverses and successes of the Chaldaean missionaries in the interior of Asia, although the history of their labors in that region is one of the high interest; but I cannot refrain from adding a list of the twenty-five Metropolitan bishops, who at the time of the capture of Baghdad by Hulaku Khan, recognized the Chaldaean Patriarch as the head of the Eastern church. This list will serve to show the success of the Chaldaean missions, and the influence which they possessed at this time in Asia. The sees of these Metropolitans were scattered over the continent, from the shores of the Caspian to the Chinese seas, and from the most northern boundaries of Scythia to the southern extremity of the Indian peninsula. They included, 1, Elam and Jundishapoor (Susiana, or the modern Persian province of Khuzistan); 2, Nisibis; 3, Mesena, or Busrak; 4, Assyria, or Adiabene, including the cities of Mosul and Arbela; 5, Beth-Garma, or Beth-Seleucia, and Carha (in Assyria); 6, Ilalavan, or Ilalcha (the modern Zohab, on the confines of Assyria and Media); 7, Persia, comprising the cities of Ormuz, Salmas, and Van; 8, Meru (Merv in Khorassan); 9, Hara (Herat); 10, The Razichitæ or Arabia, and Cotroba; 11, China; 12, India; 13, Armenia; 14, Syria, or Damascus; 15, Bardaa, or Aderbajan (the Persian province of Azerbaijan); 16, Raia and Tabrestan (Ray, Rha, or Rhage, perhaps the Rhages of Tobit, near the modern city of Teheran.—Tabrestan comprised a part of Ghilan and Mazanderan, the ancient Hyrcania); 17, The Dailamites (to the south of the Caspian Sea); 18, Samarcand and Mavaral-nahr (Transoxiana); 19, Cashgar and Turkistan (Independent Tartary); 20, Balkh and Tocharistan (Bactria); 21, Segestan (Sistan); 22, Hamadan (Media); 23, Chanbalek (Cambalu, or Pekin in China); 24, Tanchet (Tanguth in Tartary); 25, Chasengara and Nuacheta (districts of Tartary).

All these Metropolitans were in direct communication with the Nestorian Patriarch; and those whose sees were too distant to admit of their frequently tendering in person their obedience to him, as the head of the Eastern church, were expected to send to him every sixth year a report upon the condition of their flock, and a renewed confession of their faith.

(To be concluded in our next.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE QUEEN AT CHURCH.—Her Majesty and lady Albert, accompanied by Lady Jocelyn, the morning, before twelve o'clock, to worship in the parish church of Crathie. They rode in the beautiful char-a-banc, which was presented to Her Majesty by Louis Philippe, shortly before he abdicated the throne of France, drawn by two of Her Majesty's admired white ponies, preceded by a single outrider. Sir George Grey, Sir James Clark, Col. the Hon. A. Gordon, son of Lord Aberdeen, and Mr. Birch, proceeded on foot shortly before the Royal party. Her Majesty and lady Albert, occupied the front seat in the gallery belonging to the Balmorcupped by Sir G. Grey and the other gentlemen named above; and the domestics attached to the establishment were seated at their back. The

* The practice of occasionally giving raw meat to horses still exists in some parts of Arabia.

parish minister, Mr. Anderson, delivered a plain sensible discourse from Hebrews xi. 16,—“For he hath prepared for them a city.” Her Majesty throughout appeared to take great interest in the solemnities, and joined with much earnestness in the simple but beautiful melody of the Scotch Church. After sermon, the usual collection by the “ladies” was made, and the Queen and Prince each contributed, in their turn. On retiring from church, which was well filled, but by no means crowded, Her Majesty re-entered her carriage, which slowly moved along the green in front of the church; Her Majesty and Prince Albert the while acknowledging the marks of respect paid to them by the people with great cheerfulness and frankness.

SIR ROBERT PEEL.—This distinguished statesman, with Lady and Miss Peel, are living in the neighbourhood of Inverness, at Eilean Aigas. On Sunday the party attended divine service in the parish church of Kilmorack. It happened to be the day on which the summer sacrament was dispensed, and the party had thus an opportunity of witnessing one of the most interesting and important portions of Presbyterian worship. John Wesley, in recording his impressions on first seeing a Scottish sacrament, exclaims, “How much more simple, as well as more solemn, is the service of the Church of England!” If he had been present at a summer sacrament in the Highlands, held in the open air, amidst romantic scenery, he would have been of a different opinion. Wesley knew the effect of natural influences in such cases, and he always selected picturesque situations for his field-preaching. The shade of sycamore trees surrounding old farm houses, a garden wall in the suburbs of a city, or some retired winding valley in the country, were favourite spots with the venerable divine. Highland scenery is ruder, grander, and far more impressive; and this very scene at Kilmorack has been well described by Wm. Howitt in his “Visits to Remarkable Places.” The peculiar sound of the Gaelic psalm-singing—the roar of the waters far below—the lofty hills waving with crimson heather and foliage—and the earnest devout congregation scattered around on the green knolls and rocks—form a touching and sublime spectacle. A communion Sunday in such a situation may vie with the most august cathedral service.—*Inverness Courier.*

JOHN KNOX'S HOUSE.—We understand that the proprietors of this venerable tenement are resolved to reclaim to the Court of Session against the decision of the Dean of Guild Court, requiring its removal. In conjunction with the Society of Antiquarians, the proprietors have expressed their willingness to place the fabric in a proper state of repair, and they maintain that the grounds upon which the Dean of Guild Court have adopted their present resolution are insufficient.

IMPORTANT ACTION.—An action has just been raised before the Lords of Council and Session, at the instance of the Very Rev. Duncan Macfarlan, D.D., Principal, and other members of the Faculty of the College of Glasgow, against John Sligo, Esq. of Carnyle, and other directors of the Glasgow, Airdrie, and Monklands Railway Company, calling upon the latter to consign £90,000; also to pay £4,840 as the price of land; £10,000 for an hospital; £5,000 of expenses; and £20,000 of damages, &c. &c. On this action inhabitions and arrestments have been used against the defendants. The action arises, we understand, from the sale of the College under the Act of Parliament which this Railway Company lately obtained, and it is likely to give some interest to the gentlemen of the long robe in Edinburgh.

MR. HENDERSON OF PARK.—On Monday evening week, the competitors for the prizes offered for the best essays on the temporal advantages of the Sabbath, resident in London, entertained John Henderson, Esq., of Park, Glasgow, at a public soiree, in the schoolroom adjoining the Weigh-house Chapel. Rev. T. Binney presided.

REV. MR. LANDSBOROUGH.—Rutger's College, New Brunswick, New Jersey, has conferred the

degree of Doctor in Divinity on the Rev. Mr. Landsborough, of the Free Church, Saltcoats, so well known by his interesting contributions to religious literature, and his valuable discoveries and publications as a Christian naturalist.

REV. MR. BOAZ.—The Senatus Academicus of the King's College, Aberdeen, have unanimously conferred the degree of LL.D. on the Rev. T. Boaz, of the London Missionary Society. Mr. Boaz for many years has laboured at Calcutta. This honour is conferred “not more as a tribute to Mr. Boaz's character and ability, than in consideration of his successful efforts to establish a college at Calcutta”; and it is highly creditable to the University thus to rise above all sectarian exclusiveness.

FREE CHURCH COMMISSION.—On Wednesday, the 8th August, the Commission of the Free Church Assembly held its stated meeting, Dr. Mackay of Dunoon, Moderator of the Assembly, presiding. Dr. Buchanan, of Glasgow, made a detailed statement as to the Sustentation Fund. The total amount received this year, during the only two months in which they had as yet received complete accounts, was £12,685. 16s. 6d.; while the amount received during the corresponding period of last year was £13,209. 5s. 9d.—making a decrease this year upon these two months of £523. 9s. 4d. Now, if they went on at that rate throughout the year, they would be landed, at the end of it, in a diminution of about £3000 upon their income, and consequently in the reduction of about £5 of the already inadequate stipends of the ministers of the Free Church; and if they were to take off this year five pounds more from the diminished incomes of their ministers, they would be found, in two years, to have reduced their income to the extent of £11. He did hope that a result of that kind was not in store for the Free Church of Scotland.—Some discussion ensued, Mr. Hay of Whiterigg condemned congregations for retaining larger sums than they sent to the funds. There were 31 presbyteries who acted honestly by the fund against 71 who preferred their own aggrandisement. Among other cases Mr. Hay mentioned the following.—One congregation, not self-sustaining, sent £115 to the Sustentation Fund, retaining £368, or three times as much as it sent; another sent £299, retaining £893, or three times the amount it sent; another sent £89, retaining £318, or four times the sum it sent; another sent £67, while it retained £472, or five times what it sent; and another sent £121, and retained £679, five times the amount it sent. He could give a great many more instances of a similar kind; but what he had adduced showed the absolute necessity of some strong measure being adopted to set upon a right footing the different congregations and funds of the Church. In conclusion, he deprecated the system of deputations, in aid of the sustentation fund, after the signal failure of the last attempt, the result which had been, that while they had 425 congregations giving an increase upon their former contributions of £976, they had 422 in which a decrease had been exhibited to the extent of £3078. Mr. Muggill Crichton, Mr. Wilson, Dundee, Mr. Paul, &c., dissented from the views of Mr. Hay, as many of the congregations had debts to liquidate, and other objects to accomplish. A motion by Mr. M. Crichton to loose Mr. Macnaughtan from his present charge in Paisley, with the view to his acceptance of the call to Belfast, was carried on a division by a majority of 57 to 13, against a motion to a contrary effect proposed by Mr. R. Paul. The Commission sat again next day, when a minute was adopted instructing the Presbytery to meet on an early day, to receive the decision of the Commission in regard to the call from Rosemary Street congregation, Belfast, and to declare the High Church charge at Paisley vacant. The case of Mr. Edersheim, who had been called by the Old Machar congregation, was next considered. Mr. Edersheim had formerly been employed by the Jewish Committee, and last Assembly remitted to the Committee to consider whether they could not now avail themselves of his labours.