

## Religious Intelligence.

### ENGLAND.

**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND THE WESLEYANS.**—Several meetings have been held within the last few weeks at the rectory house of St. James's, Piccadilly, which have been attended by Lord C. A. Harvey; Mr T. Chambers, M. P.; Mr Henry Hoare, the banker; the Rev J. E. Kempe, rector of St. James's; the Rev Dr Burgess, rector of Upper Chelsea; the Rev. Prebendary Hawkins, B.D., and other clergymen and laymen, the object being to consider "what measures it may be expedient to take for promoting union with the Church of England on the part of Christians not at present in active communion with her." A committee was appointed, who directed their attention to the Wesleyans,—1st, because the Wesleyans generally disclaim the designation of Dissenters; 2nd, because Wesley expressed himself to the last most strongly against any separation from the Church of England; 3rd, because the apathy of the Church of England in the 18th century contributed to their estrangement; 4th, because there existed on the part of several Wesleyan ministers a wish for episcopal ordination; and, 5th, because the reconciliation of so influential a body seemed to be an important first step towards general religious union. The committee anxiously considered whether the Wesleyan body could in any consistent way be united, *en masse* to the Church of England, but finding insuperable obstacles to such a scheme resolved not to attempt it. It has been resolved, however, to petition Convocation in favour of some steps which would facilitate the entrance of individual Wesleyan ministers into the Church of England. The petition, after setting forth the advantages which would result from Wesleyan ministers receiving episcopal ordination, calls upon both houses to take the matter into serious consideration. It is stated that this movement has been set on foot by some well-known preachers of the Wesleyan body, who desire to become ministers of the Established Church, but who are, at the same time, disinclined to sever their connection with their present congregations.

The scheme suggested is entirely repudiated by the *Watchman*, the leading

organ of the Wesleyans—*News of the Churches*.

### SCOTLAND.

**FREE AND UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.**—A second friendly meeting of the ministers of these two churches, connected with the Presbyteries of Edinburgh, was held on Wednesday evening, at seven o'clock, in Sinclair's Temperance Hotel. The Rev Dr Grey, as senior minister, occupied the chair. There were present, the Rev Drs Harper, Black, Johnston, Begg, Smart, Wylie, Peddie, with the Rev Messrs W. Mackenzie, Muir, Parlange, Bonar, W. Reid, Ssevenson, Bruce, McEwan, Williamson, Deans, Inrie, &c. Letters and communications, regretting the impossibility of their being present but entirely approving of the object of the meeting, were read from the Rev Drs John Brown, Candlish, Cunningham, Guthrie, and Tweedie. The subject of conversation was chiefly the practicability and importance of the two Churches respecting and supporting each other's discipline, upon which a thorough unanimity of sentiment prevailed. Other points of practicable co-operation were also touched upon in the course of a very pleasant conversation, as well as the general importance of Christian union, and special reference to the stealthy advances of Popery, and the open attacks made upon the Sabbath, and even upon Christianity itself.—*Scottish Press*.

**THE EDINBURGH MEDICAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.**—The annual meeting of this society was held on February the 4th. In the report, which was read by the secretary, Dr Coldstream, it was stated that the committee continued to receive good accounts from Dr Evans, the Society's missionary at Mirzapore. During the year ending 31st March 1855, (the first of his labours), he had attended 1224 patients, of whom 810 were males, and 414 females. The applications at his dispensary were on the increase. He had now engaged two native assistants, one of them a Christian. His patients were addressed twice a week in the waiting-rooms of the dispensaries by one of the missionaries of the London Society. Tracts were often read to them by the better educated among the natives. The report proceeded to