

THE annual report of the foreign Missions of the Free Church of Scotland for 1880-81 is an encouraging one, shewing an advance in contributions of over \$43,000 above the previous year, making its receipts \$324,080.

A SUBSCRIPTION has been started among the Japanese residents of Paris, now very numerous, for the purpose of erecting a Japanese temple in which to celebrate their religious rites. It is designed to be an exact reproduction of a celebrated pagoda in Yokohama.

THE Churches of Protestant Switzerland have fixed upon January 1st, 1884, as the 300th anniversary of the birth of Zwingli, the immortal reformer of Zurich.

THE success of the evangelistic work carried forward in the Italian army is manifested by the fact that within the last nine years 700 of its soldiers have professed their faith in Christ.

A RIOT in Rome is quite an unusual thing, but not long since they were on the verge of it. The body of Pope Pius IX. has rested in a niche in St. Peter's church since his death, but according to his own request was to be finally buried in the church of San Lorenzo. The tomb was completed some time ago, and at midnight a procession issued forth from St. Peter's to bear the body of the deceased Pope to its final resting place. Immediately the rougher portion of the population was in motion. The mob broke in upon the procession, strove to extinguish the lights borne by the priests, and even to overturn the bier. The police failed to restore order, and finally the military were ordered out. Under their protection the sombre procession passed on to its destination, amid cries and hootings, which were a disgrace to the city and a signal proof of the very slight hold which the priests and cardinals have upon the populace of Rome.

A VERY powerful awakening has occurred in several Spanish villages near Villafraanca. In one place the entire community, numbering about one hundred families, is Protestant. In another the Romish church has been specially painted and decorated to attract the people, but the only attendants are one old man, two old women, and five boys. The Government school was closed for lack of pupils, while the one under the auspices of the Free Church of Scotland had sixty-five scholars. Over thirty men attend the night school, and some children travel a league daily in order to be present.

REV. Wm. Arthur says of the work in Paris: "I have addressed more people in evangelistic services during the last four years than ever I saw collected together in religious services during all the previous years I have known Paris."

THERE is a very significant illustration of the utter weakness of a formal religion to restrain men from wickedness in the story of the capture of a wealthy Englishman by some brigands in Greece during the early part of the present year. The poor captive was a witness of unusual wickedness. The robbers passed their days in drinking, card-playing, and boasting of their murderous deeds. But Lent came and they fasted most strictly, observed the Easter festivities very scrupulously, and then gave themselves afresh to their evil works.

THE Free Church of Scotland and the Episcopal Church have opened houses of worship in several places in Switzerland for the spiritual benefit of travellers frequenting that land in the summer season.

At Lucerne eleven years ago Principal Brown, Aberdeen University, was instrumental in starting services under the care of the Free Church. Six weeks of the present summer have been spent there by him. Strange to say by his own personal effort the use of one of the Roman Catholic Churches of that city was obtained for two services in each Sabbath. Its use was readily granted without demanding rent, and for eleven years public worship has been held in it from the middle of June to the middle of September. A Protestant congregation assembled in a Roman Catholic Church is a very unusual occurrence. Still more unusual and strange to see a number of communicants gather around the Lord's table in front of a high altar and commemorate the Saviour's death after the simple rites of the Presbyterian Church.

Asia.

THE *Congregationalist* says that "they are having eventful times in Japan. At Kobe a week of prayer has been observed, followed by a mass-meeting in a large new theatre at Kioto, with an audience of 3,500 or 4,000. In the latter place a single copy of John's Gospel led sixty families to renounce idolatry. On the other hand, a number of citizens, alarmed at the spread of Christianity, have organized themselves into a society in which each member pledges himself by a solemn oath never to embrace that faith."