

our young men to take an interest in such subjects, and thus tend to introduce a taste for those deeper studies which lie at the basis of all independent, manly thoughts.—*Ill. Colonist*, 31st Jan.

(From the *H. and F. Missionary Record*.)

MONTHLY NOTES OF RELIGIOUS AND MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—There is to be a peculiar feature in the Universal Exhibition to be opened in Paris in 1867. The British and Foreign Bible Society, which publishes the Bible in 170 languages, is to exhibit specimens of each of its 170 versions of the Scriptures. The Bible Society of France, the Religious Tract Society of Paris, the Society for the Encouragement of Elementary instruction, and others, without being able to produce anything indicating operations of such immense extent, will yet endeavour to make it seen that they have not laboured in vain.

Moreover, outside the edifice, in the vast park which surrounds it, not far from the entrance to the Exhibition, a piece of ground, two thousand square metres [a metre is about three feet three inches] in extent, has been liberally placed at the service of Protestant Missions. Upon this site it is intended to raise a long hall or gallery, to form a museum for the reception of objects of the greatest curiosity and interest, which will be furnished by the Missionary societies of Paris, London, the U. States, Germany, and Basle, belonging to the various Evangelical churches of the Old and the New World. As an adjunct to this gallery or museum, there is to be erected a large hall, for *Conferences Evangeliques* in several languages, such as sermons, lectures, communications, reports, &c. This hall will be called the International Conference Hall (*la Salle des Conférences Internationales*). We commend these interesting efforts to the regards and the prayers of all Christians who daily ask of God that His kingdom may come throughout the whole world.

GERMANY.—The question raised by the results of the recent war, of the ecclesiastical relationship of the countries formerly independent, and now annexed to Prussia, is likely to be difficult to settle. Prussia is the natural head of the Protestant Church in Germany, as her opponent Austria stands at the head of German Romanism; and accordingly a powerful party desire to see one United Protestant Church throughout the whole Prussian dominion, to be called the North German National Church. To this it is believed the Reformed Churches would probably not object; but the strict Lutherans would, and they would have the support of those Lutherans in Prussia proper who are hostile to the union established between

themselves and the Reformed Church by King Frederick William III.

Others would have the Churches of the several states entirely set free from State control—the State handing over the Church property to them, and leaving them to arrange their own affairs irrespective of political considerations. The ecclesiastical government of some of these minor states, now merged in Prussia, has been most anomalous. The Church of Nassau, for instance, never had synod, presbytery, or consistory, but was ruled by the Duke, who had a bishop, who exercised no episcopal function, as his adviser, and now that the Duke is dethroned, the Church remains in the mean time without a ruler or recognised government. The whole question is one of special interest, particularly to our own Church, which is so akin in doctrine, government, and worship, to the Reformed Churches of Germany; and we trust it may be solved by the construction of one strong and united central Church in the heart of that great country, from which we receive the light of the Reformation.

ITALY.—A new church has been consecrated at Perrier, in the Waldensian valleys, in which the pure faith has been preserved through so many ages of darkness and danger. Fourteen ministers took part in the ceremony, and the church could not hold the crowds that attended. The church is completed, but £800, a large sum for the humble Waldenses, is needed before the manse and school can be finished free of debt. From Barletta—the scene of the atrocious massacre in March last—we learn that meetings for Protestant worship are still held in the house of the Evangelist Giannini, where a little band of thirty men and women continue steadfast amidst many discouragements and persecutions.

ASIA—Persia—The Shah has not only ceased to persecute the Nestorians (his Christian subjects), but has given them a site for a church and £100 towards its erection. He has consented to take the advice of Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Persian Court, and enacted that his Christian subjects should for the future be under the immediate superintendence of a Christian viceroy. The thanks of the British Government has been conveyed to the Shah for this concession, and a subscription of £80 has been forwarded for the building of the church.

INDIA.—From the report of the Madras Diocesan Committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, for 1865, we gather some statistics about the growth of the native Church in Southern India, in connection with the English Church. The evident efficiency of the operations of this Society should stir us up to a generous emulation in the great work of proclaiming to the heathen the unsearchable riches of Christ.

During the year 1865 there were 578 bap-