

first began to labour as an Evangelist, he met with much favour among the Presbyterians in the North of Ireland.

THEOLOGICAL HALL OF UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—At the opening of the session of 1863, on Tuesday, 4th August, an introductory lecture was delivered by Prof. Eadie. The subject was the relation of free thought and inquiry to revealed truth, or the connexion of human speculation with the Bible as the Word of God. The Professor referred to a recent form of infidelity as developed in Renan's "Life of Christ," which appeared a few weeks ago. The lecturer denounced this publication as a dream, and an extravagance, having nothing in common with the letter or spirit of the gospel.

FREE HIGH CHURCH, EDINBURGH.—The Rev. Mr. Arnot, of Glasgow, has received a call to be minister of this congregation.

FREE HIGH CHURCH, ELGIN.—The Free High Church congregation, Elgin, who, some time ago, addressed a call to the Rev. A. Topp, of Toronto, have called Rev. Mr. Smellie, of Banff—brother of Rev. G. Smellie, of Fergus.

MISSIONS AND THE SLAVE TRADE IN AFRICA.—Dr. Livingstone writes very discouragingly of missionary effort, in the meantime, in the east coast of Africa. The slave hunting system seems, at present, to render their labour of no avail. He says: "*We turn our eyes to Lake Nyassa and hope to do something to stop slaving there.*"

THE CHURCHES IN THE CONFEDERATE STATES.—In the August number of "Christian Work," there is a paper by Rev. Dr. Hoge, of Richmond, on "the Churches in the Confederacy." The paper chiefly refers to the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches, and states how in consequence of the political separation, the ecclesiastical separation had taken place between the North and the South. The last meeting of the Southern Assembly was held in Columbia, S. C., in May last. One of the most interesting of the Reports was in reference to the instruction of the negroes. The Report took the ground that the sacredness of the marriage relation among slaves (the consent of the master being the only license required by law) should be recognised by law. It is stated that in a population of about 4,000,000 there are between four and five hundred thousand communicants in the various Protestant Churches.

In the same number of "Christian Work," there is inserted, in the advertising sheet, an "address to Christians throughout the world, by the clergy of the Confederate States of America." The address is a well written document, extending to six pages, and seeks to vindicate the position of the churches in the South. They declare that "the relation of master and slave among us, however we may deplore abuses in this as in other relations of mankind, is not incompatible with our holy christianity, and that the presence of the Africans in our land is an occasion of gratitude on their behalf before God, seeing that thereby Divine Providence has brought them where Missionaries of the Cross may freely proclaim to them the Word of Salvation, and the work is not interrupted by agitating fanaticism." We apprehend that many will dissent from their views on the subject of Slavery.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This body met in Belfast at the usual time in July. Dr. Cooke was succeeded in the Moderator's chair by Rev. J. Rogers, of Comber, who had been nominated by twenty-one Presbyteries. We notice some of the more important topics which engaged the attention of the Assembly.

STATE OF RELIGION.

The Report on the State of Religion was given in by Rev. Dr. Kirkpatrick, convener. He said there were no striking facts to be reported. The preaching