

sent on the "Work of the Ministry," and urged the importance of faithful adherence to the fundamental truths of the Gospel. Such action in reference to the younger men of the ministry is highly commendable, and forms an example which might be followed with advantage by the senior pastors of all the churches. Young ministers often find it hard now-a-days to hold their ground against the many difficulties and disputations which threaten their faith and steadfastness.—*The Christian.*

The following letter was recently read in the Preston churches in reference to the Preston Church Mission:—"To the parishioners of Preston. Good Christian People,—It is intended with God's help, and in humble dependence upon his blessing, to hold a mission in the several parishes of your town in the month of February. The aim and object of such missions must by this time be pretty generally understood. Though not without dangers lest a passing excitement should be mistaken for a real and earnest turning of the soul to God, they have been accompanied in too many places with such signal spiritual blessings—so many signs of repentance, and faith, and love—to permit the doubt that they are instruments which God is pleased to use for the awakening of consciences and drawing men's hearts more closely to Himself. They may be, and I trust this one will be, helpful to all. While the bridegroom tarried, even the wise virgins slumbered. We are all of us, in the routine of daily life, apt to become sadly too careless in regard to the state of our souls. Not only sinners but also the just men who seem to need no repentance, must be brought to hear the Master's call. In a day of so much religious profession there are those who require to be shown the difference between profession and reality. A mission, if it is truly successful, will do this. It will bring down the high-minded; it will lift up and cheer the humble. It will strengthen the believing; it will comfort the penitent. It will warn; it will console. It will strive to awaken that sense of the love of Christ, which Paul felt to be so constraining, and which is the true secret of the power which draws the soul to Him. It is my earnest hope and prayer that the Preston Mission may be a means in God's hands of accomplishing these things. In this confidence I commend it to you, and ask for your prayers. May Christ's blessed spirit prompt, direct, overrule all, so that God's holy name may be for ever glorified, and His blessed Kingdom enlarged.—I am, good Christian people, your affectionate friend and Bishop, J. MANCHESTER. The Epiphany, 1884.

It is almost encouraging to know that so great and good a man as Mr. Spurgeon has his fainting spells when work is difficult and when his experiences are saddening. Writing from Mentone to his people, he says he had been so much spent before leaving home that he was being conducted down into "those depressions that render life a burden." We get the impression that a man so able and useful as he is above the trials that oppress those who plod along so far behind him, and there is assurance in learning that he is of like passions, but also of like infirmities with all others.—*United Presbyterian.*

#### IRELAND.

The Ven. W. B. Chester, Archdeacon of Killaloe, has been elected Bishop of Killaloe.

The death is announced of the Right Rev. Dr. Darley, Protestant Bishop of Kilmore, Ireland. The deceased prelate was in his 85th year, having been born in November, 1799, at Fairfield, County Monaghan. He graduated B.A. at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1821, and M.A. in 1827. He became successively Head Master of the Royal School at Dungannon, Rector of Drumgoon, Archdeacon of Ardagh, and Rector of Templemichael. He was elected Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, September 23rd, 1874, and was consecrated October 25th in the same year—his election to the bishopric being the second after the disestablishment of the Church. He was a pronounced "Evangelical," and made strenuous exertions to secure the reconciliation of the Irish Primitive Methodists with the Protestant Episcopal Church.

#### UNITED STATES.

The Philadelphia *Record* tells how, at the opening of a clinic in that city, a lady silenced the rude and noisy banter of a hundred and fifty male medical students directed against the three female students present. She rose and told them that she had been for eighteen years a missionary in China, and what was the imperative need of female physicians there; and she asked

of them the courtesy of gentlemen toward the ladies studying medicine in Philadelphia. It was Miss Field, of the Baptist missions, a woman of great dignity and tact, and who, as to learning, would have been a match for the whole hundred and fifty. Her magnificent dictionary of colloquial Chinese, lately published, is one of the most important philological works of the day.

It pleases us much to hear rumors that the National Temperance Society is likely to retire its objectionable Bible-wine literature. We are informed that both Dr. Cuyler and Mr. Carter, two of the ablest of the directors, believe that the society has enough to do fighting the giant evil of intemperance without taking in hand the task of fighting the scholarship of the Christian Church. The late William E. Dodge, who was president of the society, was not responsible for this literature. In a letter written Dec. 21st, 1880, he said: "I think with you it would be better to let the wine question alone, and try to save the perishing." So say we.—*N. Y. Independent.*

#### FOREIGN.

M. Clermont-Canneau wrote to *The Times* recently an interesting account of the discovery of two inscriptions of King Nebuchadnezzar, just made by M. Pognon, Assistant Consul of the French Republic of Beyrouth. They are engraved on the rock in the Wadi-Brassa, one of the wildest valleys on the eastern slope of Lebanon. They are written the one in archaic, the other in cursive cuneiform characters, and form a whole of nineteen columns. The find is of deep interest, as proving that Lebanon furnished the King of Babylon with wood for his sumptuous palaces and temples. M. Ganneau vouches for the genuineness of these inscriptions, copies of which will shortly be published, and their contents more fully developed. It is a fact of no little significance, that in these days of scepticism and rationalistic irreverence for the Word of truth, so many ancient testimonies to its records should be brought to light.

A convent in Italy has recently been devoted to secular uses. Among other things belonging to the convent were the bones, so esteemed, of St. Peter, St. Clement and St. Anastasius. The commissioners appointed to fix the value of the articles found in the convent, estimated the bones of St. Peter to be worth eighty cents; the bones of the other saints were rated at forty and sixty cents respectively.

Dr. Johann Peter Lange, the eminent German theologian and commentator, died January 11th, near Hamburg, Germany, aged 82. His body was found in a canal and the cause of his death is unknown.

As an illustration of the deep-seated prejudice which the priests of France have succeeded in implanting in the breasts of their hearers, M. Reveilland, who has visited a part of Old Burgundy, says that in a village where nearly every adult attended the evangelistic meeting, he and his friends were regarded before the meeting as devils, but at its close they were credited as being nearly related to angels. Besides M. Reveilland and referred to above, who was formerly a barrister, M. Halbout, who was a lawyer, is now preaching the Gospel while acting as honorary colporteur in the south-west of France.

The motto over the door of the new Waldensian Church in Rome is most significant—"A light shining in darkness."

M. Vienot, French missionary at Tahiti, has received the ribbon of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, being the first missionary that has been so decorated. Besides his strictly religious work, he has held conspicuous positions in the councils of the island (a thing which the French Government deprecated in the English missionaries at Madagascar), and has devoted 19 years of useful labor to the schools of the islands.

At St. Imer, Switzerland, they have "a new way to pay old debts." The Old Catholic cure having suddenly made himself scarce, and left his congregation to pay for the fittings and other things connected with the church, they have obtained permission of the Government to open a lottery to satisfy the creditors.

The contents of a convent at Pistoia, Tuscany, have been submitted to auction, and among them are reliques of some very antique saints, and a Madonna that weeps, together with all the necessary apparatus for causing the miracle. The latter are defined as a boiler-spirit, lamp and tube, all in good state of preservation.

The Italian Government has ordered the removal of all crucifixes and religious emblems from the ships of the Royal Navy, the only exception being the Royal yachts.

The little republic of San Marino, in Italy, with its army of forty men and its public debt of \$1,080, does credit to the system of self-government. The roads are numerous and well kept, the land is well cultivated, and the villages are clean and orderly.

The house in Orleans, France, in which John Calvin lived when he was a law student, and in which he received the visits of Theodore de Beze and the librarian Leurez, has been pulled down.

The death is announced in last month's *C. M. Gleaner* of Bishop Crowther's mother, which took place at Lagos on the 13th of October, 1833, at the great age of over a hundred years. The Rev. J. A. Maser writes:—"She was in a happy condition, and full of joy to go to her Saviour." A portrait of her is given in the *Gleaner*.

In India, says the *Christian Intelligencer*, there are nineteen principal languages and a large number of dialects, yet such has been the activity of the Christian church during this century, that there is perhaps not a person among the two millions who, if he can read, cannot have access to the scriptures in his own tongue and even in his own dialect.

The sudden popularity of Buddhism among some classes in Christian lands is one of the most remarkable signs of the times. Even the numbers of this heathen sect are exaggerated, and it is confidently asserted that it is one of the leading religions of the world. Mr. Edward Arnold, the poet of Buddhism, makes the number of his followers to be 470,000,000, which is about one-third of the human race. The Rev. Dr. Happer, the veteran missionary of China, who has lived forty years in the presence of the old religions of Asia, has instituted an examination into this remarkable statement, and shows in an article just published that the numbers assigned to the Buddhists have been swollen by including many in this class of religionists who have no relation to it at all. The Confucianists in China outnumber the Buddhists, but the Confucianists are often not named, and are simply summed up under the heading "Buddhists." Dr. Happer's conclusion, after a close examination of the figures of the census of various Eastern nations, is that the Buddhists number 72,342,407. He confines himself to the one subject, but at the close makes a single remark which is quite discouraging to the Buddhists of Christian lands:—"In China the Buddhists are the drones of society and are lowest in morality, the heathens themselves being judges.

#### Home News.

##### DIocese OF TORONTO.

SYNOD OFFICE.—Collections, etc., received during the week ending February 7th, 1884. PAROCHIAL MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.—*Mission Fund.*—St. John's, Harwood, \$1; St. John's, Cambray, 75 cents; Brooklin and Columbus Mission Fund, \$1.70; Wawanosh Home, 30 cents. *Mission Boxes.*—Church of the Ascension, Toronto, \$8.74. MISSION FUND.—*January Collection.*—Trinity College Chapel, Toronto, \$15.50; Newcastle, \$21.10; North Orillia and Medonte: St. Luke's, \$7.69, St. George's, \$1.26; Guildford (Dysart), 46 cents; Manvers: St. Mary's, \$1.00, St. Paul's, \$1.00; St. Alban's, \$1.00. *Annual Subscription.*—Mrs. Palmer (widow of the late Arch. Palmer), \$20.00. *Parochial Collections.*—Guildford (Dysart), \$2.95. FOREIGN MISSIONS.—*Epiphany Collection.*—St. Paul's, Uxbridge, \$20.00; St. John's, Port Hope, \$35.85; Newcastle, \$5.00; North Orillia and Medonte: St. Luke's, \$6.11, St. George's, \$1.41; Newmarket, \$11.64. WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND.—*October Collection.*—St. John's, Port Hope, additional, \$2.00. *Collection for Jews.*—St. George's, Toronto, \$28.13.

The Bishop has issued the following letter to the Clergy of the diocese of Toronto:—

"Bishop's Room, Merchants' Bank Buildings,

TORONTO, February 4th, 1884.

"REVEREND AND DEAR BROTHERS,—Referring you to the Resolution passed at the last session of our Diocesan Synod, endorsing the suggestion (of the Committee appointed to consider the Memorial from the