

as Bishop Butler long ago taught us, it is not a wholesome mental exercise, to read largely works which stir the sensibilities, unless they prompt us to acts of practical benevolence.—*Christian Guardian*.

THE EVANGELICAL UNION OF SCOTLAND.—A committee from this body, and also from the Congregational Union of Scotland, having been appointed a few months ago, the two committees have had a formal meeting. The *Scottish Congregationalist* for April says:

"The committee of each body has examined carefully the whole practical problems which are involved, and has concluded that while there are certainly difficulties, and even grave difficulties to be overcome, yet they all can be overcome. The decision appears to be, then, on both sides that "the Union is desirable and practicable."

The Conference of the two committees has been held. After a prolonged and most hearty and valuable discussion, principally on the doctrinal and institutional interests involved, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "This meeting of Joint-committees of the Evangelical and Congregational Unions, finds that the proposed Union is desirable, and expresses its confidence that all practical difficulties can, with care and patience, be overcome."

PLAIN SPEAKING—A priceless blessing to this and every other church community would be a general resurrection of plain speaking. It is as popular in prayer meetings as in pulpits for men to hide their ideas behind obscure English as effectually as the ablest linguist could bury them in a dead language. Whether it be "preaching over the heads of the people" or giving utterance to the cant of empty forms makes little practical difference. The apostle Paul, in correspondence about a similar matter, has said that in the church he had rather speak five words with his understanding, than by his voice he might teach others, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. Let us therefore be very simple in our utterances. It is more to the purpose we have in view in Christian work to say one thing that a child can understand than a chain of verbose vagaries that might make a doctor wonder.—*Concord Church News, Toronto*.

OPEN AIR WORK.—There is much awakening up this year, to the importance of this work. A Conference of Workers is announced to be held at New York on the subject. In England it has always been much followed. The following is from the *Christian World* on the subject: "The members of the Open Air Mission assembled in the library

of the Baptist Mission House on Monday evening, Mr. J. H. Tritton, in the chair. After tea Dr. Newman Hall gave an address on 'Fundamental Truths,' remarking at the outset that, in his early days, open-air preaching was thought vulgar and foolish. When visiting Dover as a student he had proposed preaching on the pier, but a deacon urged him not to attempt it, certain elegant young ladies being among the objectors. Other anecdotes and experiences were referred to, the veteran acknowledging that he still continued the practice. It was good exercise for young preachers."

THE REVISED VERSION.—Writing in the *Expository Times*, Rev. G. S. Barrett, B.A., of Norwich, says:—"In my judgment the Revised Version has never yet had full justice done to it by the churches of this country. The faults of the version, its defects in rhythm, its too minute scrupulosities of scholarship, its occasional textual deficiencies, and the unfortunate rule that in some cases has relegated to the margin both the better text and the better translation, have all been abundantly pointed out by its critics; but on the other hand, the real nature and merits of the version have not been adequately acknowledged. For my own part, I can truly say that constant use of the Revised Version has only deepened my sense of its worth as a faithful translation of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. The wonderful accuracy of the translation as a whole, the conscientiousness and thoroughness with which the work has been done, the large number of passages, especially in the prophetic portions of the Old Testament, which, for the first time, are made intelligent to the English reader, the new and unexpected light that a careful comparison of the the Revised Version with the Authorised Version will often cast on many a familiar passage—all this and much else we owe to the Revised Version and to the men who, at large sacrifice of time and of strength, consecrated their learning to the sacred purpose of giving to English-speaking nations of the world a faithful translation of the Word of God. Whether the Revised Version will ever become a popular version of the Scriptures may be doubted; of its value to the minister, student, and to all who love Bible study, there can, I imagine, be no doubt."