

CHURCH NEWS.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

THE Marquis of Breadalbane is likely to be the lord high commissioner to the assembly this year.

THE Rev. Angus Martin has resigned the charge of Snizort, Skye, which he has held since 1843.

THE first volume of Rev. A. H. Drysdale's History of English Presbyterianism is to be published in the spring of next year.

IN Edinburgh presbytery (U.P.), there has been an increase during the past year of 300 members and £6,000 of revenue.

THE Hungarian Jew, Popper, has become, by buying a number of large estates, the patron of 63 Roman Catholic parishes.

IN the eleven courses of the Monday lectures thus far given by Joseph Cook nearly 400 subjects have been discussed, in 186 lectures and preludes.

THE Scottish Church gives prominence in its April number to a plea for the formation of an association by liberal churchmen to defend the Church.

MRS. OLIPHANT had a brother who was an English Presbyterian minister in Northumberland, and she herself was at one time a member of the same denomination.

THE Bill for restricting the sale of advowsons and next presentations was recently read a second time without a division in the British House of Commons. Several objections were taken to the Bill although the house did not divide on any of them.

THE Union Theological Seminary, Va., has 14 seniors, 19 middle, and 19 juniors—52. They are distributed among the states as follows: Alabama, 5; Arkansas, 2; Georgia, 2; Kentucky, 3; Mississippi, 1; Missouri, 1; North Carolina, 8; South Carolina, 1; Tennessee, 4; Texas, 2; Virginia, 20; West Virginia, 3.

THE Moderator of the Victoria Assembly has begun his jubilee work, and hopes to raise \$50,000 before the end of the year. Already he has several thousand on his list. The goal on which the Presbyteries are fixing their eyes is a sum of \$300,000 to be used for Home Mission, Sustentation and Church Extension Schemes.

THE Romish bishops and priests in Belgium, in their intrigues to destroy the liberal government, encouraged the formation of an international association of workmen, and now the ministry of the clericals is at its wits' end how to deal with the revolutionary spirit which the priests did so much to evoke! The papal engineer is hoist with his own petard.

THE Episcopal General Theological Seminary of New York city gives a biennial prize of a gold watch to that member of the middle or senior class who will repeat from memory the entire service of the burial of the dead, and preach the best extemporaneous sermon from a text assigned one hour previous. This year the prize was taken by a coloured graduate of Howard University.

THE April number of Our Sisters in Other Lands contains the seventh annual report of the Women's Missionary Association in connection with the English Presbyterian Church for the year ending on the last day of last Dec., the receipts from associations amounted to £1,167 2s. 1d., and from donations, etc., to £203 14s. 3d., besides £195 3s. 6d. from the Missionary Festival in Liverpool.

WE wonder how many of our readers know what is the difference which distinguishes the Northern from the Southern Presbyterian Church? We know of no difference but this, that the Northern Church feels at liberty to pronounce against any sin of the state as to slavery, secession, Mormonism, Indian oppression, or anything else, while the Southern Church denies political actions and deliverances. So little, and yet so large is the rent between the two.—Independent.

A JOINT convention of Free Baptists and Christians was recently held in Boston to discuss union, and voted unanimously "that it is the sense of the informal gathering that the union of Christians is always desirable; also that the union of the Free Baptists and Christians is denominational union is desirable, if it can be accomplished without detriment to the interests of the cause of either body." A general committee was appointed to consider and report further measures for union.

IN Utah the Congregationalists have four churches, nine ministers, and 210 members; the Baptists, two churches, two ministers, and 170 members; Catholics, four churches, six priests, and 850 members; Episcopalians, four churches, seven ministers, and 465 members; Lutherans, one church, one minister, and forty members; Methodists, seven churches, thirteen ministers, and 381 members; Presbyterians, 12 churches, 14 ministers, and 382 members. Total, 34 churches, 52 ministers, and 2,498 members.

UNBELIEVERS can no longer find encouragement by looking at Germany as an illustration of the decay of religious faith. There is no doubt whatever that there is a remarkable revival of religious interest throughout the empire. In Prussia, alone, 2,553 men are studying theology in the universities—726 are at Berlin, 552 at Halle, 300 at Griefswalden, 240 at Königsberg, 225 at Göttingen, 159 at Breslau, 159 at Marburg, 98 at Bonn, and 84 at Kiel.

Last year at these universities the entire number was 2,322; in 1883-4, 1,926; in 1882-3, 1,690; and in 1881-2 only 1,394. Thus four years have witnessed an increase of 1,159 or 83.9 per cent.

AT the last meeting of the western board of the National Bible Society, of Scotland, there was laid on the table a specimen copy of the gospel according to Mark in Wen Ji Chinese, the first gospel printed at the society's own press in Hankow, from which during the last three months upwards of 30,000 Testaments and Gospels have been issued. The agent in Japan reported the proposed issue by the three Bible societies of a pocket edition of the Japanese Scriptures complete in one volume. The semi-jubilee thanksgiving fund has received subscriptions to the amount of £2,149, including three donations of £500 each from Sir Peter Coats, Mr. T. A. Sinton of Broughty Ferry, and a member of the board.

AN English Church missionary reports the conversion to Christianity of Fashatullah, a remarkable man of wide learning and a rare linguist, who has been professor for twenty years at the Dav-ul-Islam at Mecca. While at Mecca he accidentally came upon a chapter in a volume which treated of the Bible; and on taking the book to the head of the institution, that he might refute its arguments, that person snatched the book from him, and manifested great wrath at finding that such a volume was in the place. Fashat subsequently left for India, leaving his post at Mecca that he might inquire into the truths of Christianity. He fell in with Rev. Mr. Hambridge at Karachi, and has now for some months been engaged heart and soul in studying the Scriptures. His grasp of the truth has astonished his instructors, who have great hopes of concerning the man and his future services as a preacher of Christ.—Central Presbyterian.

AT a conference of United Presbyterians opposed to the use of instrumental music in public worship, held recently in Pittsburg, U.S., a series of resolutions was adopted setting forth the principles of the convention and demanding the authoritative exclusion of instrumental music from the worship of God in the United Presbyterian Church, as necessary to "the final and peaceful settlement of the difficulty by which for years the Church has been agitated." Representation to this effect is to be made to the next General Assembly, and if the Assembly refuses to comply with the request then the "painful necessity" will arise of "choosing between obedience to the authority of Christ and acquiescence in such refusal." The second Wednesday of May was set apart as a day of special prayer for the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in the next General Assembly. The plan of an organization to be called "The Solemn League of Covenanters," was considered by the convention and referred to a committee with power.

THE two hundredth anniversary of Hans Egede, Greenland's apostle, was lately celebrated at the Greenlanders' house in Copenhagen. After an address in Danish a full service in Greenlandish was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Jørgensen. As early as the 11th century the gospel had been carried to Greenland, since which the Church there seems to have been forgotten. This negligence pressed heavily on large-hearted Hans Egede, in Norway, and he had no rest till he trod the icy land with his own foot in 1721. His success to begin with was very little. In 1733 his heart was gladdened by the unexpected arrival of three Moravian missionaries. But his joy was short-lived, and his life was embittered by the pride of the new comers. Egede was slandered and avoided as an unconverted man, because he could not submit to their doctrines on justification and sanctification and other doctrines. "He repaid their hostility with the most self denying care when they were attacked by a contagious disease." In 1736 he returned to Denmark, where he laboured as Superintendent of a Greenlandish Seminary in Copenhagen. His missionary work in Greenland was taken up by his son, Paul Egede.

A PUBLIC meeting was recently held at the Sunday School Union, London, under the auspices of the International Bible Reading Association, to commemorate the enrolment of 100,000 members. Geo. Williams, Esq., presided, and addresses were given by E. Towers, Esq., B. Clark, Esq., and Rev. D. Brodie, of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The latter gave some very interesting particulars of the work of the society since its commencement, some of which are the following:—A large type Bible sold in 1861 at 14s. 6d. is now sold at 2s. A school Bible sold same year at 4s. 6d. is now supplied at 10s. In 1812 a pearl Bible, which can now be had for 8d., was sold at 5s. 2d., while the 2s. 6d. Testament of 1816 is now sold at 4d. One of their latest and best achievements, however, is a well-bound Testament in readable type for one penny, 3,000,000 of which have been issued. The society's estimated loss on annual sales is £40,000 (for many of their books are under cost); the amount spent per year for paper and binding alone is £140,000. Another item of great interest is the Malagasy Bible, which, to meet the circumstances of the people, is sold for 1s., while the cost of each copy, carriage included, is 2s. 11d.

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