

The English Presbyterian Synod committee on the Confession have held three meetings, but made small progress, and they will not present a definite report to the Synod next month.

Mr. White, of Scotland, who died lately, never accepted office in the Free Church, but he has left to it legacies amounting to about £10,000. The sum of £5,000 he has bequeathed to the Sustentation Fund.

So far not more than five congregations of the Free Church of Scotland have introduced instrumental music in their churches. The congregation to which Professor Bruce ministers—he was the leader of the instrumental question—is to have an organ in its place of worship.

The Church of England Mission Society has recently received the munificent sum of £72,192, 18s. 9d. from Mr. W. C. Jones, of Warrington. This princely gift makes a total of £150,000 contributed by this friend of missions within nine years. The money is to be wholly spent upon native agents, native churches.

In the Convocation at Canterbury, England, held lately, it was resolved unanimously that it was expedient for the Church of England to ordain "to the office of deacon men possessing other means of living who are willing to aid the clergy gratuitously." The Wesleyan local preacher is thus planted in the stately organization of the Anglican Church.

The Jesuits expelled from France have taken up their quarters in what the *Pall Mall Gazette* calls 'the Mecca of British Protestantism,' Canterbury, where they have founded a seminary. They are now proposing a still more audacious step, the purchase of Stone House, St. Peters, near Broadstairs, in Isle of Thanet, the residence of the late Archbishop Tait, for the establishment of a similar institution.

Vigilance committees are being formed in some of the Dundee churches. The members of committees scatter themselves over the church and note absentees and strangers. Any member out of his place for two Sabbaths is reported to the minister, who immediately adopts means to know the reason why. In like manner strangers attending for two Sabbaths are seen with the view of attaching them to the congregation.

#### Europe.

The Independence Belge (of Brussels) declares that Mr. Henry M. Stanley is definitely abandoning the Congo mission.

Preaching is optional with the Russian clergy, and there are thousands of priests who for years neither write nor deliver a single sermon.

As the result of Waldensian Missions in Italy, nearly 500 new members have been added to the Church of Christ during the past year, and these are mainly from the Church of Rome.

The Buddhist craze has spread from London to Paris. There are three hundred Buddhists there and probably their demand for a temple will be granted.

Drinking in Paris has increased greatly within the last eighteen years. In 1866 the yearly consumption of alcoholic liquor amounted to forty-two gallons per head; now it is fifty gallons.

Of 600 Russians periodicals, only forty are dedicated to the cause of religion. Of this number twenty six are merely official diocesan gazettes. Thus there remains only fourteen religious periodicals of any importance.

The McAll Mission has now eighty stations in Paris, Marseilles and the Lectoral the American McAll Association having its headquarters in Philadelphia, 1622 Locust street. It is only four years old, but its receipts last year were considerably over \$14,000.

A Royal manifesto recently granted to all Bavarian Methodists the rights of a distinct church, including liberty to preach, to hold Sunday schools, and in fact, to enjoy all the privileges of the National Church, except ringing bells and public demonstrations.

There are now 153 Baptist churches in Germany, with a total membership of 30,000. The church in Hamburg, which is the parent of all these, now numbers 450 members, but many of these live at outlying stations, which would be organized as separate churches could they but support a minister.

The Turkish government seems disposed to obstruct the work of the American missionaries. It proposes to close the Armenia College at Harput. It has called upon the American Minister to prevent the missionaries from holding worship in their own houses. It connives at outrages inflicted upon missionaries by Turkish ruffians.

In France there more than half a million Protestants, with 1,000 Protestant pastors, more than 1,200 Protestant schools, and thirty Protestant religious