

Bishop Charbonnel of Toronto, gives the following statement of what has been accomplished by its means. The results are undoubtedly exaggerated, but the statistics of priests employed are probably correct, and they exhibit an alarming amount of activity:—

“There are 267 bishops now existing, aided in their missions by this work. The number of priests from the seminary of foreign missions, Rue du Bac, at Paris, employed in the missions of Asia, has increased from 32 to 197, that of the Lazarists, from 30 to 200, and that of the Jesuits to 780, exclusive of the Benedictines, Dominicans, Franciscans, Carmelites, Servites, Redemptorists, Passionists, Oblates, Mariists, &c., who have each members of their order attached to the missions. The United States alone, at the present day, are indebted to the work of the *half-penny a week* for 45 bishoprics, 1700 priests, 2000 churches, and upwards of 650 houses of education and charity, which are the most powerful means of conversion amongst the infidels and heretics.”

### L I T E R A R Y .

**POSTHUMOUS WORK OF NEANDER.**—The late Dr. Neander left in manuscript a work on the History of Christian Doctrine, which has been published in two volumes at Berlin; edited by one of Neander's most attached pupils and friends, Dr. Jacobi of Halle. We presume that an English Translation will appear. Hagebach's History of Doctrines is well known through the Translation which was issued by Messrs. T. & T. Clark of Edinburgh—but with great merits it has also serious defects. We are not aware of any original English work specially devoted to this subject. If Principal Cunningham of Edinburgh would undertake to prepare an independent History, we know no one more competent to the task. He delivers to the Students of the New College a masterly course of lectures on Polemical Theology.

**NEW LIFE OF MAHOMET.**—From the London press of Smith, Elder & Co. has issued in two volumes—“The Life of Mahomet, and History of Islam to the era of the Hegira;” by William Muir, Esq., Bengal Civil Service. The peculiar merit of this work, in which it excels the popular biography by Washington Irving, is said to consist in the careful dissection of the original sources of information. There is no co temporary history of Mahomet extant, and the earliest Arabic accounts of the Prophet that exist were written in the beginning of the third century of the Hegira. These accounts were derived from earlier traditions.

**PRIZE ESSAY ON THE SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY**—Dr. Wylie's Prize Essay on this important subject attracts considerable notice in Scotland. The Home and Foreign Record of the Free Church contains a strong recommendation of the work, signed by Drs. Candlish, Cunningham, and Begg. Is not the circulation of such a volume in Canada extremely desirable?

**PROFESSOR FRASER'S RATIONAL PHILOSOPHY.**—The small volume lately published on Philosophical Method by Professor Fraser, the successor of Sir William Hamilton in the University of Edinburgh, will interest those who enjoy abstruse metaphysics. The author classifies systems of Philosophy as (1.) Constructive systems of Realism, and these either idealistic or materialistic, (2.) Contradictory or sceptical systems; (3.) Systems of insoluble or Catholic Realism. Professor Fraser's course, of which this publication is intended to be an outline, will aim at the presentation of a system of the third class.

**ESSAYS BY FREE CHURCH MINISTERS.**—A literary work, somewhat new in its character, but most suggestive (as to its idea), has appeared within the last month, in the form of a volume of *Essays by Ministers of the Free Church of Scotland*, edited by the Rev. Dr. Hanna, Thomas Constable & Co., Edinburgh). Dr. Hanna states in his preface that these Essays emanate from junior ministers of the Free Church, all of whom were ordained at or after the Disruption of 1843. They embrace a great variety of subjects: “Catholicism and Sectarianism,” “Old Testament Light on our Social Problems,” “Tertullian,” “The Haldanes: a Chapter in Scottish Church History,” “The Offerings of Cain and Abel, as illustrating primeval Faith and Practice: a Critical Exposition of Genesis iv. 1-8,” “National Education in the United States and Canada, with special reference to the Settlement of the Question in this country,” “Bohemian Reformers and German Politicians: a Contribution to the History of Protestantism,” “Grammar Schools,” and “The Future of India.” These varied subjects are treated with much vigour and freshness; and in several of the essays there is brought to bear a very large amount of carefully selected information.