

of the congregation of Plympton on the 30th July, and adjourned to meet in St Andrew's Church, London, on the last Monday of September at 11 o'clock, A.M. —*Communicated.*

PRESBYTERY OF PARIS.

This Presbytery met at Ayr on the 17th instant, for the purpose of ordaining Mr. George Irving over the church and congregation of Stanley street, Ayr, formerly known as the congregation of West Dumfries. Notwithstanding the busy season the people turned out in large numbers, and the large church was filled by a most respectable congregation, several from the neighbouring congregations of Knox's Church, Ayr, and also from Blenheim and Paris being present to witness the first ordination of a Presbyterian minister which had taken place in Ayr or its vicinity.

The solemn services were commenced with a suitable discourse by the Rev. W. Donald, of Norwichville. The Rev.

D. Caw, of Paris, after a brief narration of the steps which had been taken to fill up the vacancy, put the usual questions to Mr. Irving, and having received satisfactory answers thereto, set him apart to the office of the holy ministry by prayer and "the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery." Mr. McKear, of Knox's Church, Ayr, afterwards delivered a suitable address to the people. The whole services were of a high order, and were well fitted to make a deep impression upon the minds of the large congregation assembled upon the occasion.

The congregation of Stanley street on the conclusion of the services of the day, with their usual hospitality, entertained the Presbytery and a large number of friends to dinner in the Wellington Hotel. Mr. Irving is, in the good Providence of God, called to enter upon a most important field of labour, and with the most encouraging prospects of success. —*Communicated.*

Gleanings.

STATE OF RELIGION IN SCOTLAND.

[At last meeting of the Free General Assembly, a Report on this subject was given in by a Committee, embodying information obtained in answer to a circular addressed to all the ministers; and the following "Remarks" were subjoined by the Rev. Dr. James Julius Wood, Convener. We hope they may be interesting and useful to our readers.]

"This, in some respects, is the most important and interesting Report that was ever laid on the table of the Assembly. If, as has been said, "a living soul is of more value than a dead world," what joy has there been in heaven over souls that have been made alive in Scotland since we met here in General Assembly a year ago! In consequence of instructions from last General Assembly, the Committee on Religion and Morals transmitted a circular to every minister and probationer in a charge or station throughout the Free Church. In reply to that circular I have received 168 returns—169, for one has reached me since the Assembly met. These 169 returns are from 66 Presbyteries of the Church—all the Presbyteries except 5. From some Presbyteries we have only received one return, from other Presbyteries we have received several. Of the 169 returns, 86 report decided awakening and revival in the congregations of which they report. These 86 congregations are to be found in 42 Presbyteries of the Church. Thus in 42 Presbyteries we have reported decided awakening or revival; and in the other 83 congregations which are to be found in 26 Presbyteries, we are gratified by being told that, whilst there is no decided awakening or revival, there is in almost every instance, without exception, increased attention to, and interest in spiritual things.

"And it is important to bear in mind that besides the returns we have received, we know that there are many congregations where there has been revival, though not reported to us. We have reason to know that whilst the returns we have received give a very pleasing idea of the state of religion throughout the country.