

ister. No fault can be found with them for determining to act on the principles of independency; but in that case it was preposterous for them to seek connection with a Presbyterian Church.

Hampshire, 30th Oct., 1861.

I am, &c., \_\_\_\_\_

## Reviews of Books.

THE TRI-CENTENARY OF THE SCOTTISH REFORMATION; or, *Three Centuries of Calvinism and Presbyterianism in Scotland*. By the REVEREND ALEXANDER McLEAN, *East Pustinch. Guelph*: Printed at the "Advertiser" Office. 1861.

We apologize to our readers and to the excellent author for having failed (unwillingly) to call attention at an earlier date to this timely, and on the whole, well executed *brochure*. Mr. McLean has done honour to himself and a service to the cause of sacred truth and religious liberty by marking, with his strong broad-pointed pen, the richest pages of his country's history,—pages that record the contendings, the sufferings and the triumphs of those heaven-prompted heroes who won for Scotland an open Bible and a preached gospel; blessings that have exalted her as a nation, and for which her sons, in whatever land they may sojourn, can never be sufficiently thankful. We do well, often and carefully, to glass ourselves in the mirror of the past, that our dwarfishness, compared with the giants that lived and fought of yore, may be revealed to us. This will prompt us to partake more abundantly of "the bread and of the water of life," that our spiritual (eye) and intellectual stature and strength may grow apace; and enable us, one day, to prove that we are worthy descendants of the Scottish Reformers, and worthy heirs of the glorious Reformation which they were honoured to accomplish. The man who holds up to us that mirror, as Mr. McLean here does; deserves our gratitude; and it will be our own fault if we do not feel rebuked, and stimulated to nobler, holier deeds. Familiarity with the history of the good and the great exerts a wonderful and benign influence on the mind;—it moulds, invigorates, excites and controls the intellectual and moral faculties of man, enabling and inclining him to tread a similarly high and holy path. Hence we cordially commend to our readers the record before us of the Scottish Reformation, along with those fuller narratives of that blessed work which are to be found, we believe, in most of our congregational libraries.

The following themes are discussed by Mr. McLean in his pamphlet, viz. :—

1. "The moral and religious state of Scotland before the Reformation."