

Church and Presbytery.

Scotland.

In Dundee the Town Council passed a resolution forbidding the Rev. Jacob Primmer from holding a conventicle on Magdalene Green, but the sturdy minister addressed a large and orderly crowd there, protesting against any attempt to put down free speech in the town that was the first to stand up for the Reformation. He was not molested.

In Glasgow open air preaching was once forbidden from the stone pulpit of Bridgegate church, because there were riots so frequently at these meetings. Preaching has recently been resumed there, and no disturbance has so far occurred.

The question of the Union is being vigorously debated in the Scottish Presbyteries. It is contended that sessions have not been consulted. In Brechin Presbytery, Rev. J. L. Robertson, Logiepert, moved approval of the overture on Union, and referred to the attempt that had been made by the opponents to make capital out of the fact that sessions and congregations had not been consulted. They were, however, a Presbyterian Church, and it was contrary to their constitution to have such questions decided by a mass vote of the people. Mr. Fairweather, Maryton, seconded. Some discussion took place in regard to the objection raised that sessions had been ignored, in the course of which Rev. John Fraser pointed out that the elders had been supplied with the fullest information in regard to the Union, and if they had so desired they could have brought the question before the session to which they belonged. The motion was unanimously adopted.



England.

Bishop Johnson, the negro Bishop of Lagos, recently escorted Mrs. Randle, an African lady, and her two children to Windsor Castle by command of the Queen. The Queen kissed the lady and the little colored children. The story of the Queen's connection with this African family is thus told. Years ago the King of Dahomey gave a little slave girl, who was one of royal blood, but captured in a slave raid, to a British naval commander, who brought the child to England and introduced her to the Queen. Her Majesty became god-mother to the little African girl and had her well educated. She eventually married a negro merchant at Lagos. She had a daughter, who likewise became the Queen's godchild, and was educated at the Queen's expense. It is this daughter, now Mrs. Randle, who has just visited the Queen with her children.

We clip the following from the *Christian World* of August 23rd:—Rev. Dr. Herridge, of Ottawa, who is returning to Canada, occupied the pulpit of Seton park church (Dr. John Watson) on Sunday. Dr. Herridge held the position of official chaplain to Lord Aberdeen in Ottawa.

The Rev. Thomas Spurgeon, pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, has the satisfaction of knowing that the whole of the contract price, £44,576, for the re-

building of the Tabernacle, has been received, and that the new building, as he desired, will be opened free from debt. The re-opening services will take place on the 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd of Sept.

The sixth annual summer school of the British Chautauqua has just closed its meetings at Barmouth. The students were boarded in pleasant houses facing the sea, and in spite of a cold and grey day to begin with, their visit turned out an ideal holiday and a time of much profiting. The programme included a lecture by Dr. Hunter, of Glasgow, on Goethe's "Faust"; lectures by the Rev. H. James, on Wycliffe and Tyndall; a Greek class conducted by the Rev. T. Williams, B.A.; and an address from the president, Dr. Horton, on "Great Teachers of the Century." The Chautauqua goes on all the year round as a Home Reading Union, and aims to assist teachers and Christian workers in every possible way.



American.

A feeling appears to be growing in England and it has attained even greater proportions in Scotland, that the study of the Bible in the Sabbath Schools is planned to too great an extent by persons outside the country. England has six members on the International Sabbath School Association, by whose members the lessons are chosen. Scotland has no member on it. A system of lessons, prepared by the Free Church Federation embracing all dissenting churches, would be very popular across the ocean. American Sabbath workers are trying to encourage closer relations with the British.

At Chataqua recently, the corner-stone of what is to be known as the "Hall of Christ" was laid. This building, which is to cost \$50,000, all of which has been already subscribed, is to be devoted exclusively to the study of "the life, words, deeds, spirit and results of His life, Who spake as never man spake, and Who went about doing good, Whose name is above every name." Dr. J. H. Vincent planned the building. Copies of all the engravings of pictures of Jesus are to be gathered here, and a library formed of all the books relating to Him.

There is a fly in the ointment under the most careful conditions. Harvard opened her doors this summer to the Cuban school teachers who were brought over for a few weeks of American life. Most of these were Roman Catholics, and Harvard was careful to repress anything that would look like proselytizing. But this went so far, say some, as to prove a real hardship to the small minority of Protestants in that company of teachers. The Cuban Protestant pastor at Tampa came north to preach to his Protestant compatriots, and the Catholics at Harvard threatened him with arrest. The real aim of those who managed the affair, however, was to conduct the visit with the least possible friction.

The *Boston Congregationalist* speaking of the present inactivity in church life. Not in six years, to be exact about date,

have religious matters in New York been so inactive as they have for the past eight weeks. Churches are closed that have not been closed before in years, and those that remain open are attended by handfuls. Two churches that for many years have been kept open daily, that the way-farer might come in, rest and pray, have had their doors shut tight for the last fortnight, solely because nobody had come in during the previous fortnight and the caretakers got permission on this account to take their vacations. Scarcely a minister of prominence was to be found in the city on week days, and few, except strangers, on Sundays. More assistant ministers than ever before have had opportunity to play chief parts, but even some of them found substitutes—if they could. All this does not prove that there is an interregnum in religious interest. The churches are not weaker than they have been. The explanation is that with returning prosperity the people are away, having vacations that they did not take in the past. This statement is made only after investigation. Churches that never before found themselves without congregations in July and August have had that experience this year. There are people in New York, but they are strangers, and being from home they do not attend church.

The American Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has invited other Foreign Mission Boards to send representatives to New York to a conference upon the present mission crisis in China and to consider what is now best to be done. Twelve Foreign Mission Boards have accepted the invitation, among them are the Congregationalist, Methodist, Cumberland Presbyterian, Methodist South, Presbyterian in Canada, China Inland Mission, Disciples and the Swedish Covenant of Chicago. Just before this conference there will be a great gathering of all Presbyterian workers at present home from the foreign field to consider the best course for Presbyterian missions in future.

The Presbytery of Utah at its meeting August 23rd, gave the following deliverance respecting Revision:—"That such verbal changes in Chapter 3, Sections 3 to 7 of the Confession of Faith be made as shall show our belief in the doctrine of the salvation of all who die in infancy; and also to restate the doctrine of preterition, yet so as to preserve the character and quality of our Calvinistic system of theology. We also recommend the adoption of a brief statement of our doctrines as taught in the Scriptures for popular distribution."

In connection with the tent work in Philadelphia during the past summer, the following report of its results so far will be interesting: Five tents have been in operation. Meetings are held nightly upon the large recreation pier erected by the city for the benefit of poor people. In the tents and upon the pier, meetings are conducted without intermission, except Saturday, which is taken as a day of rest. Each week the attendance amounts to over 15,000. In the various districts in which tents are located, and work is conducted, the Christian people who are not taking a summer vacation are organized into workers' hands. Thus Christians are afforded an opportunity to keep their spiritual lives stimulated by constant activity. All classes of Christian