

IRELAND.—The Irish Presbyterian Church is most successfully raising the sustentation fund in lieu of the *Regium Donum*. The General Assembly's Sustentation Fund Committee met in Belfast on Thursday, when the Rev. R. J. M'Allister, convener of the Fund, reported that 318 congregations had subscribed £14,575, and that £2,070 had been given as donations. One hundred thousand copies of the sustentation scheme, accompanied by a letter from the Moderator of the General Assembly, have been circulated throughout the Church. The scheme is working admirably, and there is little doubt that by the meeting of the Assembly in June, the necessary sum will be realised.

At the late general Convention of the Irish Episcopal Church, the vexed question of the place of bishops was brought up. The bishops stood out for their continuance as a separate order, although the majority of the members of Convention was in favor of their taking a place among their brethren of the ministry.

COLONIES.—The General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Churches of New South Wales and Victoria, held their annual meetings in October and November of last year. The Church of New South Wales has an income of 61,200 dollars, a membership of 2431, sixty-seven churches and 163 preaching stations. Under the Assembly are seven Presbyteries, embracing forty nine separate sanctioned charges. The Assembly supports one ordained missionary, who labours among the Aborigines in Erromanga, and a catechist, whose work lies among his compatriots, the immigrant Chinese. The Victorian Assembly has a roll of 102 ministers and 68 elders. About 160,000 people are in connection with this Church. The Assembly has missions in the New Hebrides and among the Chinese. It is now establishing a College for the education of young ladies, and is preparing for the full equipment of a Theological Hall.

FRANCE.—The Pope has ceded to the incessant solicitations of his friends, and relieved Father Hyacinthe of his monastic vows. Father Hyacinthe is to become a secular priest, under the title of l'Abbé Loyson.

The Protestant Church is making some important advances in Normandy.

BELGIUM.—The Belgians have got up another Holy Coat of Treves story in the cure of an old priest, who had been gradually wasting away, by drinking some water from the well of Our Lady de Lourdes. There is much need for the Protestant paper, *Le Semeur*, which has just made its appearance in that land of priests.

ROME.—The Pope and a large body in his council are fiercely opposed to one another. He has insultingly returned the petition forwarded to him against the Infallibility dogma, and has stated, in presence of a large number of strangers, his determination that the dogma shall be published by the Council. Dr. Dollinger's denunciation of the Pope's conduct, which he refers to the Jesuits, is keeping the Roman Catholic world in a ferment. The German Catholic Church has long threatened independent existence, and as the Pope is resolute and attacks the recusant bishops without consideration, it is not at all impossible that a Free German Church may be one result of the Council.

PALESTINE.—The discovery of a large-sized vellum Samaritan Pentateuch, by Dr. Basilius Levisohn, of Jerusalem, which, from internal evidence, he refers to the days of the first Temple, is a statement that must be taken *cum grano salis*.