

**Fortieth Annual Report of the St. Andrew's Female Benevolent Society, Halifax.**—This long-established organization has just issued its Fortieth Annual Report, combining the years 1868 and 1869. The Committee are grateful to be able, through the kindness and Christian liberality of the members and friends of the Congregation, to meet the wants of many who need assistance, and ask the attention of subscribers to the fact that no assistance is rendered except to persons in whom the fullest confidence rests, and of whose characters investigation has been made. This assistance is, almost invariably, rendered in the form of food and articles of clothing and fuel, in the severe weather of winter. They have been able to provide work for some in need of relief, and in this way have given an opportunity of earning that which otherwise would have been given as gratuity, and have also furnished a large number of articles of clothing for poor scholars in the Sunday School, and in this way have aided in furthering that good work among the young.

In 1868, subscriptions amounted to \$62 57½, which sum was expended in groceries, fuel, and clothing for the poor. 60 garments were made up for SS. Scholars:

In 1869, subscriptions amounted to.....	\$44 50
Extra do. for support of aged person.....	18 50
	————— \$63 00
Paid for groceries, fuel, and clothing.....	31 80
	—————
Balance in hand from subscriptions.....	\$31 20
Cash in hand from sale of clothing.....	12 00
	—————
Total Cash in hand.....	\$43 20

275 garments were made up and given to poor families during the past two years, and 75 were sold. A number were taken by women in payment for work.

### NOTES OF THE MONTH.

THERE appears a movement for a national secular education in Great Britain. A strong feeling exists, however, in favour of a religious element. Even Mr. McLaren of Edinburgh supports "a conscience clause." Other questions approaching will be so engrossing, that it is not likely that any education measure will pass this year. The concessions made to Ireland in the disendowment of the Irish Church, so far from having worked well, seem to have opened the door for all manner of lawlessness and rebellion. In the South, murder and riot stalk abroad. Tipperary has elected a convict for the House of Commons—an election invalid on two grounds, first, that he is disqualified as a convict, and secondly, that bands of armed men traversed the county and threatened the electors. Tenants in many districts refuse rent, and the lives of the landlords are in danger. It is to be hoped that the strong arm of law may be stretched out to protect the industrious and peaceable against the lawless and turbulent. Among an ignorant and priest-ridden people, law administered in the ordinary way is powerless. What would be the use of a jury trial in Ireland now? In the course of the deliberations between clergy and laity as to the future constitution of the Irish Church, there has arisen a difference of opinion,—the bishops insisting upon the right to vote as a separate order. It is difficult to see how two separate and independent courts erected to govern a church can avoid collision. Pure episcopal government is not reconcileable with true Synods. Power must reside either in the bishops or the Synods. If the bishop be merely a president of assemblies, the combination may work well enough. In such a case, the executive administration may be left with the bishop—a kind of government which would probably accomplish