

CHURCH NEWS.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

It is reported that the king and queen of Sweden have become teetotalers.

The number of communicants in the Baptist churches of New Jersey is 33,820.

Dr. BERESFORD, the late Primate of Ireland, has left £91,000. He makes no charitable bequests.

The Earl of Harrowby has been elected president of the Bible society in room of Lord Shaftesbury, and Mr. J. Gurney Barclay succeeds Mr. Joseph Hoare as treasurer.

THE ordained Presbyterian ministers, European and American, labouring as missionaries in India at this hour number 200, and there are over 500 native ruling elders.

THE Presbyterians of New South Wales have resolved to celebrate the majority of the Union Church, which falls next year, by raising a fund of £50,000 for church extension.

THE New York Independent would like to know how many Christians in that city who keep carriages support as many missionaries as they have horses in their stables. It fears not one out of a hundred.

THE son of the late Mr. H. B. Clafin, New York, in obedience to a verbal request of his father in his last illness, has sent a cheque for \$20,000 to the American Home Missionary Society. This is the second or third payment of this sort he has made in executing the wishes of his father not recorded in his will. Mr. Clafin is making an example that will have effect.

WE have much pleasure in intimating that the late William Arce, Esq., of Huntly Hall, Nairn, has bequeathed a legacy of £10,000 to the United Presbyterian Church, to be applied for the general purposes of said Church in such way and manner as the Synod of the Church, or any committee or person appointed by them, shall apportion and determine. The money is directed to be paid through Dr. Cairns, as Principal of the Theological Hall.

A new religious movement is creating much excitement in Southern Russia. The "Stundists," who are members of a Lutheran body, now call themselves Evangelical Christians, and are making surprising progress among the peasants. In many villages the Orthodox churches remain empty, while the meeting-houses of the Evangelical Christians are crowded. The Holy Synod is very much troubled by the large number of dissenters, who continue to increase in spite of every kind of persecution.

THE Rev. Dr. Alexander M'Leod of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cloughton, Birkenhead, who was unanimously chosen as the Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England, to be held in London at the end of April next, having been compelled on account of his health to decline the honour conferred upon him, the Rev. Dr. David M'Ewan, of Clapham Rise Presbyterian Church, London, will, we understand, be asked to take Dr. M'Leod's place in the Moderator's chair when the Synod meets.

AN account has recently been published of the fact that a large number of manuscript sermons by Robertson, of Brighton, have been lost. They were mislaid on the platform of a railroad station, and, in spite of diligent search and a reward of some £100, that was offered, they have never been heard of since. It is said that there were enough to fill two volumes. This is an irreparable loss to certain ministers, who have already preached through all the published volumes of Robertson, and having been compelled to look elsewhere, exhibit a marked deterioration of style.

THE late Mr. J. M. McEwan, Glasgow, has left the following legacies:—The Royal Infirmary of Glasgow, £5,000; the Glasgow Western Infirmary, £5,000; the Glasgow Perthshire Charitable Society, £1,000; the Grocer Company of Glasgow, £1,000. Mr. McEwan further directed his trustees to divide a sum of £10,000 among charitable institutions in Glasgow or within thirty miles thereof, which they have now allocated. The residue of his estate, which it is estimated will amount to £25,000 or thereby, to be divided among the schemes and funds of the Free Church of Scotland.

THERE is an estimated grand total in all lands of 11,784 Congregational churches, 10,803 ministers, and 1,204,099 members. In the United States there are a total of 4,170 churches; churches reporting value of houses of worship, 2,515, amount, \$24,607,476; churches reporting parsonages, 1,092, valued at \$2,390,233; churches reporting amount of funds held, 592, with a funded amount of \$1,878,766; churches reporting themselves in debt, 514 with a total indebtedness of \$953,294; churches reporting amount of salary paid pastors, 2,230—total of salaries, \$2,189,631; making an average salary for those pastors of about \$984; churches reporting total parish expenses, 3,033, total expended by them \$4,480,190—an average of a trifle over \$1,447 each.

THE Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, for thirty-eight years minister of Myrtle Street Baptist Chapel, Liverpool, died on Wednesday at Falkner square, Liverpool, after a short illness, at the age of sixty-two. Born in the Isle of Man in 1823, the son of a Church of England clergyman, in early life he became an engineer, and for some months drove an engine on the London and North-Western Railway. He then studied for the church, but his views on the subject

of the Establishment led him to join the Nonconformist ministry. He was a lecturer of great note and influence amongst the labouring classes for whom his early training had given him keen sympathy, while as a minister he succeeded in maintaining a leading position throughout his career. His style as a preacher was robust and trenchant.

ICELAND was recently visited by a German statistician, and he has furnished interesting data of that land. The Icelanders are all Lutherans. Some French missionaries tried very hard to make converts but without any result. There are one Roman Catholic, one Methodist, four Unitarians, and three Mormons to be found among a population of 72,445 souls (census of 1880). The island is divided into twenty deaneries, with 141 parishes. The head of the clergy is the Bishop at Reykjavik. Of the 299 churches 217 are built of imported timber, 75 of peat or turf, and only seven of stone. The well-known fact is confirmed that the Icelandic Lutherans, poor as they are, possess the true and lasting riches of knowledge to a remarkable degree; and as many of them are settling permanently in our great North-West, they form a very desirable addition to our population.

THEATRICAL performances are now being given on Sunday in nearly all the large cities of the West. They are gradually encroaching on the Sunday law in New York under the disguise of "sacred concerts." The present state of things will not last long. The churches are nearly deserted on Sunday evening. Where do the people go? An estimate of the number of persons who frequent the saloons on Sunday evening will tell the tale. In the saloons on Manhattan Island there are congregated groups of people discussing a free Sunday. While preachers are addressing empty benches on Sunday evening, the saloons are educating a popular sentiment that will break down every guard of Sunday restriction. When the floodgates of this reservoir of iniquity are opened, like pent-up liberty let loose into maddening freedom, a New York Sunday will beggar description.—New York Day Star.

AT its next meeting the London Presbytery will consider the Home Mission remit, dealing with the question of lay preachers. How the London Presbytery will decide is hardly doubtful. The Bristol Presbytery has come to the following conclusions, which will be duly reported to the Synod. First—That there are men within the ministry of the Church possessing special evangelical gifts, and they would recommend the Church to begin her new departure in seeking to gather in the lapsed by employing such persons. Second—That when God in His holy providence raises up special agents for His work, the Church should give them encouragement. Third—That they do not think it desirable to encourage the feeling among the ordinary Christian workers, that ordination stamps the work and the work with special importance. Fourth—That under all circumstances, agencies, such as training classes, that would make workers more efficient, should be encouraged.

LORD HERSHELL, the new occupant of the woodstock, is a son of the late Rev. Ridley H. Hershell, a distinguished Nonconformist minister in the metropolis and a member of the Jewish race. Mr. Hershell was not connected with any of the existing English denominations, but his church was practically an independent one. Dr. Norman Macleod was an intimate friend, made a tour on the continent in his company in the interest of the Jews, and was wont to preach in Mr. Hershell's pulpit during his visits to London. Mr. Hershell's name crops up repeatedly in the biography of the illustrious minister of the Barony and always in a manner which testifies to the spiritual elevation of his character. The Lord Chancellor was, we believe, a devoted teacher in his father's Sunday School, so that in this respect he resembles three at least of his most distinguished predecessors. His lordship is, besides, a fresh example of the high capacity that continues to bring so many Jews to the front in the higher walks of life in all the nations of Europe.

A NOTABLE event happened recently which should constitute a memorable new departure in Church of England history. For the first time the Bishop of London ordained three ladies as deaconesses in St. Michael's church, Paddington. Deaconesses, indeed, have existed, but this ceremony has not taken place before in church; and this gives altogether a new importance to their official status, which has hitherto lacked real recognition. On the present occasion, which was very imposing, the Bishop was assisted by six clergy. In the Established Church such a proceeding will give an authoritative sanction to the appointment of these clerical sisters. They will be as "reverend" as any clergymen; and the "clergywomen" of a church which depends so much on the glamour of imposing ceremonial for its influence will not fail to take a place of enhanced dignity in society. If the Order of Deaconesses can be kept from the Romish proclivities which are the peculiar danger of female clergy, they may be a vast power for good amongst the women and even the men of England.

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