

Monthly Summary.

THE past month is barren of stirring events in the ecclesiastical world. Our Church at Home exhibits a few removals and changes in the incumbency of parishes, by death and translation, presenting little interest to readers of magazines in a distant colony. The distinguished Editor of "Good Words" has gone on a tour of three months' duration, through Egypt and the Holy Land, the result of which may be looked for in the pages of his magazine. With his accustomed liberality of sentiment, he endeavored, in his place in the Presbytery of Glasgow, to prevent the transmission of an overture against the admission of the ministers of other denominations into the pulpits of the Established Church. It must be regretted that the overture did pass the most liberal Presbytery of our Church, by the casting vote of the moderator, and thus an arrangement, which did not originally find place in the Church, but was introduced, for a temporary purpose, at the time of the preaching crusades of Rowland Hill and the Haldanes, will probably be perpetuated, when the occasion for it has passed away, and when it is impolitic, not to mention higher considerations, to isolate any Church from evangelical Christendom.

DR. CANDLISH, in a preface to a new edition of his work, "Reason and Revelation," offers explanations in reference to the attempts of Colenso and others to fasten the charge of rationalism upon him, in his views on inspiration. He charges the bishop with disingenuousness in quoting his words, and satisfactorily defends his statement that "all scripture is not revelation," as containing human words and acts, which could be known by human means. He adds that he holds all scripture to be so inspired as to be entitled to the appellation: "the Word of God." The Dr. alleges that the Duke of Argyll, in his speech as President of the Glasgow Bible Society, had misunderstood that passage of his book, wherein he says, "The inspired word is abreast of the science and literature of its own age, but not in advance of it." Provided that the language of his book justifies the explanation he gives of his own views, it must be admitted that his statement, "I affirm that the inspired word is so framed as to be found consistent with the science and literature of ages long posterior to its own," is both well-conceived and well-expressed.

PRESBYTERIAN UNION in the large colony of New South Wales is hastening to completion. The contemplated basis is characterised by great simplicity, and plants in this new southern empire, the time-honored principles of the Scotch Church. The union of all Presbyterians in the great colony of Victoria was effected some years ago. The Australian

churches seem determined to shake themselves clear of all the shackles springing out of their old connections; and burying their wars and battle-cries in the depths of the mighty ocean that divides them from the land of their birth, brace themselves up for a free development, in the opening empire of the southern hemisphere. Whether they are wise or not, time will tell. It is impossible to erase, and it is not easy to weaken, old recollections and associations in the hearts of exiles, and these unions are probably dictated more by necessity than inclination.

THE foundation of a new college, for which £166,000 sterling was left by Sir William Fettes, has been dug. It is to be in the neighborhood of Edinburgh, and to cost 70 or 80 thousand pounds. Though many have large fortunes in the Lower Provinces, yet such patriotic bequests are almost unknown, and yet how much more urgent the need!

THE Lord Chancellor's judgment in the prosecutions against Mr. Wilson and Dr. Williams for their articles on "Essays and Reviews," is exciting a commotion among the clergy of the Church of England, and no wonder. He decides that the clergy of that Church are not prohibited from holding that every part of Scripture is not inspired, and that the future punishment of the wicked is not eternal. How this great and influential Church continues to cohere and do so much with such doctrinal extremes within her pale, appears a mystery. A twentieth part of them would have sent a Scotch Church to pieces.

THERE is a lull in the war in the States,—Fitzpatrick's raid to Richmond having exerted no influence upon the issue of the war. The reverse in Florida is a more serious matter for the North. There are surmises of negotiations between the French and English Governments concerning the recognition of the Southern Confederacy.

THE Danish dispute has culminated in actual war, the Danes having been driven, by Prussian troops, out of Schleswig. The Germans are easily inflamed with the idea of German unity, and, as Schleswig has a German population, its incorporation with Denmark has always been a grievance to the Confederation. Little can be hoped from a conference with Austria and Prussia, since these powers have not chosen to adhere to an existing treaty, settling the question. Anticipated troubles in Italy and Galicia may be more powerful in the cause of peace than the Danish armies. It is said that our own royal family is divided on the question; of course the Prince of Wales, as a dutiful husband, warmly espouses the cause of his wife's father.

A. P.