

propriated as follows:—Home Missions, £50; Manitoba College, £50; Queen's College Students' Missionary Association, £50.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.



Missionary Meeting of an unusually interesting character was held in St. George's, Edinburgh, on Sabbath evening, 6th March, to bid God-speed to a band of nine missionaries proceeding to the Blantyre Mission, East Africa, in connection with the Church of Scotland. It is a proof of the deepening interest in the Church's Missions that the large church was crowded before the bells began to ring, and that the congregation eagerly availed themselves of the opportunity of shaking hands with the missionaries at the close. The party consists of the Rev. David Clement Scott, B.D., Mrs. Scott, Dr. John Bowie, M. B., C.M., and Mrs. Bowie, Miss Beck, Mr. John McIlwain and Mrs. McIlwain, Mr. Samuel Tanner and Mrs. Tanner. Of these Mr. and Mrs. Scott and Mrs. McIlwain are returning after furlough in this country to recruit broken health. Dr. Bowie has given up a valuable practice in London to join Mr. Scott, who is his brother-in-law, and sails with his wife in April, if possible, for Africa. Miss Beck is to be supported by her two sisters in Scotland. More than \$10,000 were raised for the Mission in ten days.

A RUMOR having been published to the effect that Mr. Ruskin had recently been received into the Church of Rome, Mr. Ruskin has written the following letter on the subject:—"Dear Sir,—I shall be entirely grateful to you if you will take the trouble to contradict any gossip of this kind which may be disturbing the minds of my Scottish friends. I was, am, and can be only a Christian Catholic in the wide and eternal sense. I have been that for five-and-twenty years at least. Heaven keep me from being less as I grow older; but I am no more likely to become Roman Catholic than Quaker, Evangelical or Turk.

Ever faithfully yours, JOHN RUSKIN."

[Of course by "Evangelical" here he means the *pseud-Evangelical*, which is really *Antinomian* or *Solidarian*.]

In the British Parliament, Lord Salisbury showed that the Irish Crimes Bill is intended to save the Irish people from Coercion of unlawful Leagues using terrorism by boycotting, threats and bloody crimes. The Irish crimes bill would not compare in stringency with Mr. Gladstone's bill of 1881. Under the latter

measure people were imprisoned without trial. This could not be done under the present bill. The suppression of crime in Ireland did not mean the suppression of liberty, except only the liberty to cheat, rob, bully, mutilate and murder.—The amendment against the Irish Crimes Bill being lost by a vote of 370 to 269, its second reading was agreed to without a division.

THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE in London has proved very interesting. The Colonial Secretary, Sir Henry Holland, after setting forth the importance of the occasion, dwelt on the growth of colonial trade. From 1837 to 1885 the imports of the seaports of the American, Australian and African dependencies had increased 11 times. During the same period the British shipping trade with the colonies had risen from 3,700,000 tons to 56,600,000 tons, and British exports had increased in value from £11,300,000 to £54,500,000. In 1837 the population of the same colonies was 4,204,700, and in 1881 it was 12,753,100. The population of all the colonies in 1881 was 15,753,000. The rate of increase was curious. The European colonies had shown a slight increase. The population of Ceylon had doubled, and the same might be said of the other great Asiatic colonies. The population of the Cape was eight times, and that of Canada three times, as large as they were. He then dwelt on the best means of defending the British possessions the world over, and mentioned, as points which required defence, Halifax and Esquimaux.

NEGOTIATIONS go on between Britain and the United States, and there are good prospects of a friendly treaty, settling the Fishery Question; unless the Americans prove utterly unreasonable and pig-headed.

AT LONDON, April 22nd, Henry Irving presided over a brilliant company which assembled in the Lyceum theatre for the purpose of promoting the establishment, at Stratford-upon-Avon, of a universal memorial Shakespearian library. Mr. Irving declared that the poet's birthplace, in the event of the success of the undertaking, would become more than ever the Shakespearian student's future Mecca. Sir Theodore Martin offered a resolution, which was adopted unanimously, that the present small library at Stratford be extended so that it should include copies of all British and foreign editions of Shakespeare's works. Mr. Phelps, American Minister, offered a resolution that the library have added to it, also, all obtainable biographical, critical and other works dealing with the British and foreign drama. This was also agreed to by an unanimous vote.