

PRESBYTERIAN UNION.—We observe from the proceedings of the Free Church Synod, Victoria, that a joint committee of the Synods of both Presbyterian Churches has been appointed to make arrangements for the consummation of the Union, by considering and disposing of the remaining subjects of discussion. When are the Union Committees of Canadian Synods to meet? Why does the subject sleep?

INDIA MISSIONS.—THE SANTHALS.—The Santahls (says the *London Times'* Bombay correspondent) have at last completely settled down. It is felt, however, that there is no permanent security for the Damun, till the savages have been civilized. The Government, therefore, has handed the whole race over to the Church Missionary Society. Teachers are to be selected by them, and responsible to them alone, the State finding the funds. School-houses, boarding-schools, books, and money for travelling are all to be provided by Government, but administered by the Society. Mr. Droese, the Society's agent in Bhazulpore, is a man of some energy; and the Santahls have no creed, no caste, and rather a respect than otherwise for Christianity. It is not therefore improbable that in a generation the savages who recently desolated Berbhoom may be an educated, civilized tribe of Christians.

DEATH OF ANOTHER EMINENT MISSIONARY.—Intelligence has been received of the death of the Rev. Eli Smith, D.D., the well-known and eminent missionary in Syria. By this event the American Board and the cause of Foreign Missions have sustained a heavy loss. In addition to his missionary labours, Dr. Smith was engaged in translating the Scriptures into Arabic. He had, we believe, completed the New Testament, the Psalms, and part of the Pentateuch.

LITERARY.

WHAT THE CHEVALIER BUNSEN IS DOING.—M. Bunsen, we hear, is engaged at Heidelberg upon his new translation of the Bible for the people, with a complete commentary, two volumes of which will appear this year, together with an introductory philosophical work, entitled *God in History*. The first volume of this work has already appeared, and is said to be creating a great sensation. It is being translated by Miss Winkworth.—*London Athenæum*.

NEW COMMENTARIES.—Learned commentaries on the Apostolical Epistles continue to appear from the pens of clergymen of the Church of England. In addition to Bloomfield and Alford, we have now the elaborate works of Jowett, Ellicott and Bagge. Mr. Jowett, indeed, from his rationalistic views of inspiration, must be a very unsafe guide, and should be read with extreme circumspection. Mr. Ellicott has produced the finest specimens of grammatical commentary on the text of Scripture, extant in the English language. We have not seen Mr. Bagge's commentary on the Epistle to the Galatians, but it is highly praised by orthodox reviewers in England. All the works alluded to are of the strictly critical order, and are useful to those only who read with facility the Greek text.

POETRY.—The poets are neither an extinct nor an idle race. Within a short period, we have seen four new poetical works of unequal, but distinguished genius,—Tennyson's "Maud," Aytown's "Bothwell," Longfellow's "Hiawatha," and Mrs. Barrett Browning's "Aurora Leigh." Large editions of these poems have been sold. Mr. Alexander Smith is about to present himself again to the public in a new volume of poems, to be published by MacMillan & Co., Cambridge.

EDITORSHIP OF THE EDINBURGH WITNESS.—Mr. Peter Bayne, author of a popular work on the "Christian Life," and lately editor of the "Glasgow Commonwealth," has been appointed to succeed the late celebrated Hugh Miller in the editorial chair of the *Witness*. Mr. Bayne is a near relative of the Rev. Dr. Bayne of Galt, C. W.

NEW BOOKS AND NEW EDITIONS.—Among the works announced as "in the Press," we notice as of special interest.

A Commentary on the 1st Epistle to the Corinthians, by Rev. Dr. Hodge, of Princeton. The third edition of Rev. Professor Fairbairn's invaluable work on Scripture Typology. A new volume of Eastern Travel, by Rev. Dr. Stewart, of Leghorn, entitled the "Tent and the Khan."

The Evangelical Alliance Prize Essay on the Sabbath, by the Rev. Micaiah Hill, of Birmingham.

An Analytical Exposition of the Epistle to the Romans, by Dr. John Brown, of Edinburgh.