

CHURCH NEWS.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

THE English peers control 3,899 church livings.

THERE are 2,221 theological students in the Prussian universities this term.

THE income of the Trinity church property in New York last year was \$550,000.

THE Church of England enjoys an income from the State of about \$1,500,000 per annum.

THERE have been five vacancies in English bishoprics during the year, caused by death.

FORTY Protestant churches and over 100 Sunday Schools in Paris ought to be a power which will soon prove itself in grand results.

A SON-IN-LAW of the late Mr. Van-Jerbit has lately given to Mr. McAll 4,000 francs to pay for the hire of a hall in St. Germain, Paris, in which quarter a daughter was born to him.

THE London Missionary Society has sanctioned the printing and binding of an edition of 5,000 copies of the Bible Dictionary in the Tahitian language, prepared by the Rev. Mr. Pearse, of Raiatea.

THE Million-dollar Missionary Fund, to be raised by \$5 subscriptions in commemoration of the Centennial of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America, will, it is hoped, be complete by October next.

LISBON, Portugal, has a Presbyterian church with a substantial church building on a good site. It has a Portuguese school in connection with it. It has a prayer-meeting, evangelistic meetings, and is doing a good work.

THE London Christian states that the report that Mr. T. C. Studd, the Cambridge athlete, had invested his fortune of £100,000 for the benefit of the China Inland Mission, with which he is connected, is "entirely inaccurate."

THE Presbyterians have opened a station at Merida, the "only place of evangelical worship in all the state of Yucatan," although a population of 400,000 has long invited the missionary laborers of the Protestant Church.

THE visit of the choir of Mr. Spurgeon's orphan boys to Belfast, Derry Coleraine, and other places in the North, has been a signal success. The performances, consisting of selections of chorale pieces, chiefly sacred, proved highly attractive.

THE second band of Methodist missionaries for the Congo, consisting of 20, left New York recently. They sailed for Liverpool, which they left on April 7th. They will be met on the African coast by Bishop Taylor, the Methodist Bishop for Africa.

ONE of the German papers states that "at Vienna last year no less than 263 Jews became Christians," and another paper tells us that "at no period since the first century have conversions from Judaism to Christianity been so frequent as they are at present."

THE Bishop of Peterborough has uttered a strong protest against allowing the clergy to "preach heresy by proxy," by inviting Nonconformist ministers to occupy pulpits and uphold tenets which those who gave the invitation dare not preach themselves for fear of penalties.

THE Chinese Recorder states that there are 34 Protestant missionary societies at work in that Empire, eighteen British, twelve American, and four German, and about 914 foreign missionaries, of whom 307 are married, and 150 single men and 150 single women, a net gain of about sixty in the last year.

THE Southern Methodists have reduced the debt on the Publishing House from \$356,000 to about \$100,000. They have taken in all the bonds they could hear of except about \$100,000. That amount remains to be paid in thirty-five years at four per cent. They have money enough in bank to retire \$30,000 more if they could lay their hands on the bonds.

LADY MAURICE FITZGERALD, who has lately succeeded from the Romish church, is a daughter of the Earl of Granard. Her husband is a brother of the Duke of Leinster. She has seen not a little of Rome's intriguing, bigotry, and malice—much more than she could stand. She is singularly beloved by her tenants for her generous disposition.

MR. SPURGEON has thought it worth while to give a formal denial to a statement which has attained some circulation to the effect that he does not value the revised version of the New Testament because it takes away many of the texts which were supposed to support Calvinism and "believers' baptism." Mr. Spurgeon asserts in reply that on the points mentioned he has never raised a question in reference to the revision.

IN the excavations of the Palestine Exploration Fund about Jerusalem, the foundations of the second wall, described by Josephus as beginning at the Gate Gennath, and encircling the northern quarter of the town, were discovered while constructing a new pavement; also a stone ball, such as the Romans used in the siege of Jerusalem, and three pieces of pottery with the stamp of the Tenth Legion on them.

THE present Lord Mayor of London is a Methodist local preacher. On a recent Sabbath, he preached in the City Temple (Dr. Parker's church) to a crowded audience. At the close of the sermon Dr. Parker said that he regarded the presence of the Lord Mayor in

the pulpit that morning as one of the brightest events in the history of that church. The highest men in the land in the old country are not ashamed to preach the gospel.

THE New York Freeman's Journal says: "Not at the initiative of prelates of the United States, but in compliance with an expressed wish of the Holy Father now reigning, Pope Leo XIII., there are to be erased from the number of Feasts of Obligation, first, the Epiphany, sometimes called the Christmas of the Gentiles; second, the Feast of the Annunciation, or of the Incarnation of Our Lord; third, the Feast of Corpus Christi—the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament."

ACCORDING to the latest published reports there are in the Prussian Church about 6,600 livings, an increase of only fourteen during the year. On the other hand, the number of theological students has more than trebled during the last seven years. The war with France had the effect of reducing the theologians at the universities. Among other items of information the report states that there has been a decrease in the number of baptisms, and that eleven Protestants have gone over to Judaism.

THE Spring Commission of the Scotch Free Assembly was appointed to meet, but, partly owing to the severity of the weather, and partly to the fact that there was no pressing business to bring before the church, a quorum was not obtained. There was consequently no meeting. The Moderator (Dr. Mitchell, St. Andrew's) could not travel over the snow-blocked lines of Fife; but Dr. Milligan, the clerk, with his usual promptitude, was in his place at twelve o'clock. He travelled from Aberdeen.

THE Rev. Dr. Philip Schaff, writing to The Independent as to the present status of the Revision, reports that the Apocrypha of the Old Testament is undergoing a much needed revision at the hands of a volunteer company of the Old and New Testament Revisers, including Bishop Lightfoot, Prof. Hort, Canon Wescott, and Dr. Moulton, among others. The American committee has nothing to do with this work, but still keeps up its organization, and will not dissolve until its agreement with the University Presses expires.

THE American Mission in Egypt is perhaps the most prosperous foreign mission of the United Presbyterian Church. It has, through its efficient and faithful missionaries, carried on its extensive and successful missionary operations all along the Nile valley. The changes that have been wrought within the past quarter of a century have been wonderful in their character, extent and promise. In Upper Egypt these changes are due, more than to any other one person, to Rev. John Hogg, D.D., the news of whose death has just been received.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London Guardian refuses to join in the self-gratulation of his brother churchmen over the statement that during the last quarter of a century the Church of England has voluntarily raised £31,573,237, which is at the rate of £3,262,929 per annum. Income tax, he says, is annually assessed in England on £533,538,379. He thinks that it will be far below the mark to assume that £350,000,000 are in the hands of members of the Anglican church. By the law of tithes, therefore, churchmen ought to have contributed £35,000,000 annually before charity could be said even to have begun. Looking merely at what was their debt there is a deficit of upwards of £30,000,000 per annum. This churchman, therefore, refuses to boast.

AT a meeting of the Glasgow Free Church Presbytery, recently, a report submitted stated that the journeys of tramway cars on Sunday had increased by 257; that in some cases special trains had been run for the accommodation of theatrical parties; that the number of shops open on Sunday had increased by 45; that though the Sunday sermons had ceased, their place has been taken by so-called concerts of sacred and classical music conducted by persons who acted or sung in the theatres. The clerk read a letter from Mr. Brunton, of the United Presbyterian Church, asking the co-operation of the other churches in connection with Sunday observance, specially the keeping open of shops so late on Saturday night. The Presbytery heartily accepted the invitation.

STEPS are being taken at Rome to canonize 277 servants of God (so called) who "lived holy lives or died heroically in England in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Among their number are 149 secular priests, 18 Jesuits, 7 Benedictines, 12 Franciscans, and the rest laymen." These men were either alien priests or traitorous Englishmen, who strove to bring England under the yoke of foreign powers, whose names, whether they are canonized or not, will be handed down to the detestation of future generations, wherever the English language is spoken. It would have been kinder to allow the grass to grow quietly on their graves, than to reveal their names to the scorn of the great Anglo-Saxon races in England, North America, and the Colonies, who had permitted the waters of oblivion to wash out their memories.

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