

Russians; they speak, among others of a Russian, Baron de Vicinghoff, who was, he is since dead. These latter details are pleasing, inasmuch as they confirm what we already knew from other accounts and examinations, that there are many souls in Livonia attached to the pure gospel.—*Christian Times* Correspondent

THE CONCORDAT.—The new Concordat meets with no mercy at the hands of the German journalists, who view it in exactly the same light, as it is regarded by at least two-thirds of the population of this empire. The organs of the clerical party in Germany are at great pains to show, that the close union between the Church of Rome and the sword of Austria is a death-blow to the machinations of the revolutionary faction in Italy, but lay Conservatives predict that, sooner or later, the concordat will lead to the downfall of the Christian empire. The effect produced on the people by the convention with Rome is so extremely unfavourable, that the heads of the Church have directed their subordinates to act with extreme circumspection, "and gradually accustom their flocks to the new order of things."

WAY IS UNITARIANISM AT A STANDSTILL? This question is thus answered in the *Indicator*, a Unitarian paper.—"The solution is simply this,—the Unitarianism of most of our days does not gain ground among the people, because it is unsuited to the people. It does not come home to their feelings, or warm their hearts, or inflame their devotion. And the people want exactly what we (as a body) do not offer them—a hearty, glowing faith."

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

FEBRUARY, 1856.

Proceedings of the Colonial Committee.

We are delighted with the intelligence recently received from Scotland, and rejoice to see the Colonial Committee of the parent Society realizing their proper position as a Missionary Institution, and discharging with zeal and alacrity the important duties of the high and responsible situation which they are placed. Numerous and hearty, certainly, have been the addresses, petitions and solemn appeals which have been drawn up and transmitted by individual associations to the Committee, from every part of the world, not a few from our own Province; and we know of these applications, coming from members, office-bearers of their own church, resting on undoubted authority, and containing requests of extensive and long continued destitution, have not been made in vain. Partial assistance has already been rendered to several districts. The Committee have often advertised for preachers who would be willing to repair to the Colonies, in the *Home and Foreign Missionary Record*, and other periodicals, and the claims of the destitute have been frequently and ably met in the pages of that Missionary

Journal. The Committee, we rejoice to learn, are now about to adopt other, and we trust still more efficient, means for accomplishing the objects which the church has in view. A direct and earnest application is to be made at their instance, to the students and preachers at all the University seats, to engage in Missionary labours.

"I appeared," says the Rev. George W. Spratt in his letter of the 21st Dec. to the Editor of this Journal, "before the Colonial Committee, and we had a most pleasant meeting. Mr. McLeod, of Glasgow, who takes as great an interest in the Colonies as ever, was present. I gave a report of my proceedings, detailed the wants of the country, and urged the propriety of immediate efforts to meet them. Great interest was felt and expressed, and the Committee appeared most anxious to do everything in their power, as also did Dr. Smith, the present acting sub-convenor. At Mr. McLeod's suggestion the period of service was shortened, and it was resolved to send out a Gaelic deputation. I was instructed to send my own statement to the Record for publication. The Record is now edited by Mr. Blake, of Stobo, who is very highly spoken of. After conversation it was further resolved that Mr. McLeod and myself should be sent down, with the authority of the Committee to all the Universities of Scotland to beat up for recruits. This we purpose doing immediately after the New Year. Already Mr. McLeod has induced one Glasgow student on the eve of license—to offer himself; indeed this was before the change of arrangements; and I have been applied to by the friends of a preacher who is anxious to go out. You will see an abstract of my report as to the destitution in the Record. I have named 7 as the least number that will suffice. I do confidently expect that early in Spring at least six will be upon the field, and then the number of missionaries contemplated by your Home Mission Scheme will be complete."

I am, yours very truly,
GEORGE W. SPRAOTT.

Gaelic Deputation.

Our readers will recollect that an overture on this subject was before the Synod at its last meeting. The object sought to be accomplished by its introduction is to meet, temporarily, until the arrival of some Gaelic missionaries, the destitution of religious ordinances which prevails so extensively among the Gaelic population in connection with the Church. It was thought that a deputation, consisting of two or three ministers from the Highlands of Scotland, sent out under the auspices of the Colonial Committee, and labouring for some months among the vacant congregations, under the direction of the Church Courts, would be the means, with God's blessing, of reviving and encouraging the hearts of a people, who have waited long and patiently for a ministry, with which they are as yet very imperfectly supplied. With this view a committee of the Synod was appointed to draw up an appeal to the Colonial Committee. An appeal was accordingly prepared, submitted to the Synod, and approved of. It contained a state-

ment of facts with a very urgent and pressing solicitation that, in view of them, the proposal made might receive a most careful and serious consideration, and it was in due time despatched to the proper quarter. It was not expected, as it was not deemed judicious, that a deputation should be sent to this country in the winter season, and therefore it was wisely suggested that, in the meantime, a special effort might be made to draw the notice of Gaelic clergymen to our spiritual wants.

We have now the gratifying intelligence to communicate, that the Colonial Committee have taken the whole matter into consideration, that it has engaged their most anxious and matured deliberations, that it has commanded most hopeful efforts, and has been honoured with a most favourable reception. As we expected they have, "delayed, in the meantime, taking any step with a view to sending out a deputation, more especially at this season of the year;" but they have adopted a variety of measures for the purpose of carrying into effect the suggestion to which we have just referred; and we entertain a strong and earnest hope that these will be successful. The Secretary has received instructions "to advertise in the Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Ross, Stirling, Perth, and Argyle newspapers, for ministers or probationers who might be disposed to go out, to transmit their testimonials to the convener, vice-convener, or Secretary." He is also directed to enter into correspondence upon the subject with the Professors of Divinity in Aberdeen and Glasgow.

We imagine our readers are aware that there has been, for some years, and is, even yet, in the Highlands of Scotland a great demand for Gaelic ministers; and it is also to be borne in mind that, whether it be from the increased demands of a widening mission field, or the growing indifference of the Celtic Youths, there is experienced at present a great difficulty in enlisting from that country, a sufficiency of soldiers of peace as well as of soldiers of war. At the utmost, therefore, we cannot expect more than a limited supply just now. But we shall be greatly disappointed if the call which is made, and which, by this time, has gone forth from the capital, to John O'Groats in the North and to the Mull of Cantyre in the South, do not meet with the ready response of one and another lealhearted volunteer, "Here am I, send me."

The instruction given to the Secretary to enter into correspondence with the Professors of Divinity reminds us that, in accordance with the prayer of another overture submitted to the Synod in July last, a committee was appointed to transmit a separate appeal to each of the University Missionary Societies, with the view of arresting the attention of the more advanced Students of Divinity, and of exciting their sympathies in our behalf. The knowledge that all these measures are put into active, wide-