

no room for the "ne'er do weel," except to cumber the ground and die.

WE now read in an exchange that the revised Old Testament will be issued during the present month (May), and two papers published in the *Manchester Guardian*, apparently from one who knows, prepare the public for greater departures from the authorized version than even the revised New Testament presented. This will be no surprise to those who have even but imperfectly studied the Hebrew Old Testament. For our own part we are satisfied from our very desultory study of the revised New Testament that, assuming the work of the revisers of the Old Testament version to be equal to that of their coadjutors, the continued use of King James's version after the issue of the complete revised version will be a sacrifice of faithful translation to the sentiments of association and prejudice. Contemporary with this version, there has been carried on in Germany a similar revision of Luther's German Bible, the results of which are now known, and from which we may forecast some probable changes of our forthcoming revision. We give one. Job xix. 25, 26 is thus rendered in the German revision: "I know that my Redeemer liveth; and at the last He will take his stand over the dust. And after this my skin hath been destroyed, I shall see God without my flesh."

UP to April 4th, when our Executive met, the receipts from churches and individuals for the Home Missionary Society amounted to \$2,300, the amount expended \$5,000. Of course, we expect many remittances yet; but churches must exert themselves if we are to face our annual meeting with a clear balance sheet; \$2,700 deficiency is not to be trifled with.

THE following letter appears, addressed to Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., of Britain. We have sympathy with its utterances:

LIEGE, March 27th.

SIR,—The idea of a war between England and Russia about a village lost among the steppes of Central Asia is a thing so utterly absurd that one remains confounded and in despair at the prospect. . . . There never was a question so well adapted for arbitration as this of the Penj-deh and the tracing of a frontier between the Afghan and Russian territory, for the two parties to the dispute themselves

acknowledge that it is an open and an obscure question. Lift up your voice, dear sir, and make yourself heard among the working men, the commercial men, among all those who are threatened by the culpable folly of a war which can lead to no solution even though it were crowned with the most undoubted success.

Yours devotedly,

EMILE DE LAVELEYE

Mr. Henry Richard.

THE ALLEGED DECADENCE OF CALVINISM.

From various quarters it is proclaimed with much confident assertion that Calvinism is dying out. Statements of this kind very naturally find their way into Methodist journals, where they are sometimes paraded with an air of denominational triumph. Our esteemed neighbour and contemporary, the *Christian Guardian*, whose weekly visits we greatly prize, and whose well-filled columns we read with much interest, has of late been putting some of these statements into conspicuous prominence. A selected article in its issue of April 8th not only expresses the opinion—said to be "now largely prevalent,—that the influence of Calvinism is decreasing," but quotes Dr. Dale, of Birmingham, as declaring that "among the present aspects of theological thought in the Congregational churches, none is more obvious than the general disappearance of Calvinism." We are fully warranted then in taking up this subject—if not in duty bound to do so—and we desire to discuss it, not at all in a controversial spirit, or one of denominational partisanship, but with a simple and sincere desire to arrive at the historical and actual truth.

At the outset we take leave to say that much which is apt to be hastily regarded as indicative of the decadence of Calvinism, is in reality only the modification of it. All schools of theological opinion comprise both ultraists and moderates. Time was, and not so very long since, when ultra-Calvinists were in the majority, and moderate Calvinists were limited to a small and unimportant minority. But the tables are turned, and moderate Calvinism is now in the ascendant. This is not only the case throughout the Christian world at large, but in particular portions of it having Calvinistic creeds. Superficial observers have got the idea that the Scottish Presbyterian bodies have outgrown their Calvinism, but those who are thoroughly conversant with the facts