

took great interest in that labour. The last public duty in which Principal Fairbairn engaged was in ordaining, four or five weeks since, two students who had received license from the Presbytery with honours, and who had been appointed missionaries to China by the English Presbyterian Church, in which he ever took a lively interest. One of these was Mr. John Gibson, son of Principal Fairbairn's late esteemed colleague, Dr. Gibson. He got through an immense deal of work without being ever hurried—a thing he attributed to that steadiness and method which he was accustomed to impress upon his students as of essential value. With them, as with his colleagues and his fellow-presbyters, his intercourse was also most pleasing and friendly; and in many trying conjunctures the benignant influence of a man so good, and at the same time so unquestionably able, was most beneficially felt. He interested himself in all the religious movements of the city, in the promotion of which his influence and testimony were alike readily procurable. He was twice married, and leaves a family by his first wife.—*Weekly Review.*

MEETING OF BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—The meeting of the British Association was held this year in Belfast, and was largely attended. The address of Professor Tyndall, President of the Association, in which the Bible was ignored and materialism virtually avowed, gave rise to much discussion, outside the Association, at any rate. While the Association was still in session, various references were made in sermons and addresses to the views expressed by Prof. Tyndall.

ABOLITION OF PATRONAGE IN SCOTLAND.—The Commissions of both Assemblies—Established and Free—have met since the Patronage Bill has become law. In both the bill was the main subject of consideration. In the Established Church Commission the leading members expressed themselves in terms of unmingled gratitude to the Government, and of hopefulness in regard to the future of the Church. In the Free Church Commission the subject was spoken of in different terms. Dr. Rainy saw in the passing of such an Act an injury to other churches, and an incitement to clerical agents to attempt to win or drive back non-conformists to the Established fold. Dr. Begg, from his point of view, spoke of the Patronage Abolition Bill as really the glory of the Government, and a cause for lasting gratitude. Whether any who left the Establishment in 1843 will find their way back remains to be seen.

DEATH OF BISHOP SUMNER.—The Rev. Dr. Sumner, formerly Bishop of Winchester for about 40 years, lately died. He was extensively known and very highly respected for his maintenance of Gospel truth, his Christian liberality of spirit, his genial and kindly manners, and his unaffected but genuine piety. Some years ago he resigned the position which he had so long occupied, having been succeeded by the late Dr. Wilberforce.

WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.—The Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Church was held in Truro, the Rev. W. M. Punshon having been elected President. Forty-seven young men were ordained to the work of the ministry. The total number of members reported was 351,645, the net increase being 3,065.

RESIGNATION OF FATHER HYACINTHE.—Father Hyacinthe has at last resigned his position as Cure of Geneva, having discovered that "the spirit prevalent in the Catholic liberal movement in Geneva is neither liberal in politics nor Catholic in religion."