

neighbourhood to it, a sympathy, a veiled tenderness of heart, veiled but deep, and of piercing vehemence, and an inward gaiety of soul alive to the ridicule that dwells in whatever is ridiculous in fact; a fine vein of humour which is wanting in Dante."

SCOTTISH PURITANISM.—"Scottish Puritanism well considered seems to me distinctly the noblest and completest form that the grand sixteenth century Reformation anywhere assumed. We may say also that it has been by far the most widely fruitful form, for in the next century it had produced English Cromwellian Puritanism, with open Bible in one hand, drawn sword in the other, and victorious foot trampling on the Romish Babylon—that is, irrevocably refusing to believe what is not a fact in God's universe, but a mingled mass of self-delusions and mendacities in the region of chimera—so that now we look for the effects of it not in Scotland only, or in our small British islands, but over wide seas, over American continents and growing British nations in every zone of the earth, and in brief, should have to admit that John Knox, the authentic Prometheus of all that, has been a most distinguished son of Adam, and had probably a physiognomy worth looking at."

THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY have appropriated £2,500 for the erection and fitting of a college building in Madagascar; in which the present theological institution shall be developed into a general college. The last mail from Madagascar brings copies of a proclamation by the queen setting free the slaves clandestinely imported into the island since 1865, and affixing a penalty of ten years' imprisonment for concealing or still holding as slaves any negroes. Thus everywhere Christianity brings "liberty to the captive."

DEATH OF DR. R. BUCHANAN.—Dr. Buchanan was born about the begin-

ning of the century, in the suburb of Stirling known as St. Ninians. His father was a manufacturer there. At the parish school the lad displayed uncommon talent, such as suggested the propriety of devoting him to a learned profession. He chose the ministry; and from the day he entered on his University career all his studies were directed to that end. He took both his Arts and his Theological courses at Glasgow. In those days the leading professors were Jardine and Milne, and the prelections of the latter in the Moral Philosophy class were, we have understood, very efficacious in giving a keen edge to his logical and controversial powers. This charm of manner was characteristic. It was a great attraction to those who came within its spell. No doubt there was about the man a certain air of frigidity which repelled strangers and timid folk; but though he could repress impertinence—no one better—he was incapable of slighting, not to say wounding, any one who approached him on a legitimate errand. The number of men whom he has helped on their way in the world, not merely by a good-natured or an off-hand recommendation, but by patient and painstaking vigilance, including the introduction of a "good word" at a seasonable time, is, we believe, incalculable. Many of those who admired him as a politician—a man of devices and expedients—knew little either of the warm-hearted disinterestedness that characterised the man, or of the true simplicity that belonged to the leader. The estimate of him that has very generally been sent abroad is that he was cold and crafty. We venture to think that no more egregious mistake could be indulged. His coldness was merely on the outside, and arose from a diffidence which was innate and unconquerable. His craft came from the quick and clear perception of a man endowed with a comprehensive and sagacious mind—