

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.

EVANGELISTIC MOVEMENTS.

FROM all parts of Christendom the most delightful news reaches us respecting what is being done to revive spiritual religion in the churches. The week of prayer seems to have been well observed, and the seasons of refreshing which were then enjoyed is a proof that "the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous" still prevails. December 4th was observed mainly by the Episcopalians as a day of prayer for foreign missions. The venerable Dr. Moffatt, now eighty years of age, delivered an address in Westminster Abbey, in which that devoted man in an artless plain manner, told of what had been done by the proclamation of the Gospel among the Bechuanos, who now read in their own tongue the wonderful works of God.

Messrs. Moody and Sankey are now at New York, where extensive preparations were made for their coming. An immense edifice, the Hippodrome, was made suitable at an amazing expenditure of money. Ministers of various churches delivered preparatory sermons to arouse the people to earnestness. A choir of 1,000 persons was organised from all the churches; bands of two persons each were formed to visit the people and distribute tracts, so that it would indeed be a marvel, if with such extensive preparation there should not be great success.

Revivals are now being more sought after than usual by all denominations. In some places hundreds have professed to find mercy. There is a village in Ontario where there are *three* Methodist congregations, all of which would not make more than one worthy the name. They have, however, united for special services in each other's churches, and even during the first week there were tokens of good.

Some Presbyterians on the Hudson River inaugurated an excellent plan of special meetings. Several clergymen visit a single church and hold two or three services, in which the addresses are short and pointed. Such meetings are largely attended, and institute special work which the visited church can afterwards continue. The bands of visiting clergymen are changed frequently, and all churches in the Presbytery are visited in turn. Great good has thus been done.

From Bengal, India, we hear of a "Kurrarpucker Singing Society," which is an interesting example of spontaneous effort on the part of native Christians, and which shows that in the case of races which have the natural gift for music, singing the Gospel may be a most feasible way of spreading it. This little society has been at work for the last three years; they have laboured in nearly thirty places, and have seen abundant fruit result from their humble work. Poetry and music have a great power over the Hindu mind.

We regret to learn that some who have been very active in the "Higher Life" movement, have injured the cause by controversy and other means. With Methodists holiness is an article of faith, and we have no need to be ashamed of such of our fathers as were patterns of piety. Mr. Fletcher was called the "Seraphic Fletcher," because of his sanctity. John Hunt, the