

rality, in seeking for information, and procuring signatures to petitions in favour of a Bill bearing so directly on the public good, and the happiness and welfare—temporal and spiritual—of countless families.

**HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD OF THE FREE CHURCH.**—We have not received the November number of the *Record* in time to give any extracts, nor the last number of the *News of the Churches*.

**RETURNS OF MARRIAGES, &c.**—We are requested by a correspondent to remind ministers that according to the existing law, returns should be given in to the Clerk of the Peace, within five days after the first day of January; and that no fees are required from the ministers who give in such returns. We were in hopes that another and a more reasonable and equitable law would have been enacted ere now.

**THE WAR IN THE EAST.**—Intense interest exists as to the result in the East. The battle of Inkerman appears to have been one of the most desperate and sanguinary in the annals of warfare. The allies stood their ground against the assaults of vastly more numerous forces. Reinforcements have been sent in great numbers. Victory, we trust, will crown the efforts of those who are maintaining the right cause. But, alas, how many families will be made to mourn. How ardently should Christians pray for the time when God shall make wars to cease to the end of the earth.

#### NOTICES OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

**INDIA AND THE HINDOOS:** being a popular View of the Geography, History, Government, Manners, Customs, Literature and Religion of that Ancient People; with an account of Christian Missions among them; By F. De W. Ward, late missionary at Madras. Glasgow: W. Collins. Sold by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

The writer of this volume is for ten years a missionary in India, and presents us here with the results of his observation and research. The object of the writer is to awaken a deeper interest in India, and in the missionary work which is being carried on in that land. He gives a brief and popular view of the Geographical divisions, the natural productions, the history, literature, and domestic customs of India, and, in concluding, gives some interesting information in regard to the condition and progress of christian missions among the Hindoos. The book does not exhibit the depth and grasp of Dr. Duff's work on India, from which various quotations are made. But still it is calculated to be useful as a concise and popular treatise on India. It is cheap, and will well repay a careful perusal.

**WINTER IN SPITZBERGEN.** A book for youth from the German of C. Hilderbrandt; Glasgow: W. Collins. Sold by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

In this book, which is specially designed for youth, will be found a large amount of useful and interesting general information. It is just such a book as would be found entertaining in the long winter evenings.

**THE WHALE AND HIS CAPTORS;** or, the Whaleman's Adventures, and the Whale's Biography. By Rev. Henry T. Cheever. Glasgow: W. Collins. Sold by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

The Book before us contains the result of the writer's observation and experience while on board the United States Ship *Commodore Preble*. The descriptions which it contains are graphic and highly interesting, while interspersed are numerous passages of a religious and spiritual description. The volume is well worthy of a perusal.

**MISSIONARY MEMORIAL;** or Biographical and Historical Sketches of Distinguished American Missionaries. Edited by H. W. Pierson, A. M. Glasgow: W. Collins. Sold by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

This volume has been written by some of the most distinguished American Ministers, including Drs. Cheever, Dickinson, Worcester, and various others of name. It contains memorials of upwards of twenty missionaries, who have ceased from their labours, and entered into rest. There are memoirs of Dr. Judson, and Mrs. Harriet Winslow, Fisk, Abbel and others who were highly honoured in the work of the Lord. The introduction contains an account of the origin of American Foreign Missions. The memoirs are necessarily brief, but they are written in a pleasing and interesting style. Some of them indeed are productions of great merit.

**OLD AND NEW THEOLOGY;** or the Doctrinal Differences which have agitated and divided the Presbyterian Church. By James Wood D. D. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.

This is a Book of great merit. It was first published in 1838, and has since gone through several editions. It contains an impartial and elaborate comparison of the two systems, generally known as the Old Theology and the New. For the sentiments of the old school, the author refers to the confession of Faith, and to standard Calvinistic writers, and for those of the new school to Mr. Finney and various ministers who have written on the points in question. The work is well adapted to afford information to those who wish to know the difference between the old school theology and the new; and few we think will rise from its perusal without feeling satisfied that the old is better than the new.

**WORK;** Or Plenty to do, and how to do it. By Margaret Maria Brewster. Edinburgh: Thomas Constable & Co. Sold by J. C. Geikie, Toronto.

The work before us is one of a very high order, as is evidenced by its extensive sale, amounting in a short time to sixteen thousand. It is the object of the accomplished and devoted writer to supply a brief manual of hints to those who are earnestly seeking to solve the problem how they may most successfully lay out their time and talents for the glory of God and the good of their fellow-creatures. After showing that work is alike the duty and privilege of all, the writer devotes a chapter to what she calls 'warfare work', or that inward struggle which the christian has to sustain in his own soul, and with the trials and temptations with which, in the providence of God, he may be surrounded. She then goes on

to speak of the different kinds of 'work' or duty to which believers are called, such as 'every day work,' 'home work,' 'social work' &c., &c.—The Book indicates a mind of great power,—moulded and sanctified by divine grace, and possessing an enlarged acquaintance with the word of God, and at the same time tender sympathy with the trials and difficulties of her fellow-creatures. There is one admirable chapter with the title 'Homely hints about work,' from which we give the following extract, with the view of giving a specimen of the style and spirit of the work. "*Be wise!*—Too often the usefulness of christians is marred by a native want of wisdom. With the best intentions they say and do just what is calculated to injure instead of to profit, and they lay hold of the apostolic injunction—"be instant!" as an excuse for being very much oftener out of season than in season. Sometimes the defect proceeds from an overwhelming confidence in their own wisdom, which makes them trust to this broken reed to extricate them from perplexities, to uphold in difficult paths, and to solve harassing doubts and fears; therefore God leaves them to these their counsellors, that after doing, saying, and thinking the most unwise things possible, they may become "fools" in their own estimation. The cure for both these cases is so simple and direct, that it need only be stated in these few words of scripture, "if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth unto all men liberally and without rebuke, and it shall be given him." All that is essential for the obtaining of this true wisdom, is to be ever bearing in mind our daily, hourly need of it, and ever pleading the full promise of its immediate supply; so that in all sincerity, though not with fleshly wisdom, we may walk without erring in the high way of holiness."

It would be easy to select other extracts, but we forbear. We heartily recommend Miss Brewster's volume to all who may have it in their power to obtain it.

#### THE REV. W. BURNS ON CHINA.

The following account of a meeting lately held for the purpose of hearing from the Rev. W. C. Burns, information in regard to China, will no doubt be interesting to many of our readers. We take it from the *Scottish Guardian*:—

On Friday afternoon last, the Rev. W. Burns, at the request of a number of friends, members of different denominations addressed a meeting in the Merchants' Hall on the subject of China. On the platform we observed the Rev. Dr. Lornmer, the Rev. Dr. Brown, the Rev. Dr. James Paterson, the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, the Rev. H. McGill, the Rev. George Blyth, W. P. Paton, Esq., John Henderson, Esq. of Pais, Andrew Wingate, Esq., John Turner, Esq., J. D. Bryce, Esq., W. Keddie, Esq., &c. On the motion of Mr. Wingate, Mr. Paton was called to the chair. At the desire of the chairman, Mr. Mitchell opened the meeting with prayer.

The CHAIRMAN then introduced Mr. Burns, and explained that it had been arranged that the meeting should be as much as possible of a colloquial character, that those who felt an interest in the condition of China might be at liberty to put questions to Mr. Burns on topics which had special interest for them.