

CHURCH NEWS. BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

IN the Indian churches of Puget Sound Presbytery there are over 300 members.

PROTESTANT churches are multiplying in the city of Rome, the foundations of the twenty-second one having recently been laid.

AN attempt is being made to raise the stipend of every incumbent of the Scottish Episcopal Church to a minimum of \$1,000 a year.

THE Baptists of Texas have had three organizations—the State Convention, the General Association and the East Texas Convention. These have all agreed to consolidate and form one body, and thus work together in harmony.

THE churches in the Presbytery of Cincinnati, four years ago, contributed to the board of home missions \$3,000 drawing out \$1,800, leaving a net gain to the board of \$1,200. This year the record shows they have contributed \$6,700, drawing out nothing—a gain to the board of five and one-half times as much as four years ago, and, besides this, have taken care of feeble churches.

THE Presbyterian General Assembly at Minneapolis thus defined its relation to Swedenborgianism:—"In view of the great doctrinal difference between the Swedenborgians and ourselves, the Assembly regards the reception of church members upon certificate from them as inadmissible. It is not intended by this deliverance, however, to deny the Christian character of many who are known as Swedenborgians."

AT Chamba, India a most successful medical mission is in charge of a Dr. Hutchinson who has been in the field since 1873. About 8,000 new patients are treated annually, 500 operations performed and 200 in-patients ministered to in the hospital. Converts to the number of 200 have been received into church fellowship. At the Canton hospital, last year, over 12,000 patients were treated, and 800 operations performed.

"THE changes going on in India today," writes Rev. Daniel Jones, of Agra, "are to us astounding. Actually natives are going up and down the land lecturing against child-marriages. Widow re-marriage is rapidly gaining ground. An undercurrent, reaching to the very foundations of Hinduism, is daily growing in power, and is sweeping away ignorance or prejudice. Woman is speedily being raised and is really beginning to claim her rights."

IN April and May the missionaries of the American Sunday School Union in the Northwestern district, under the direction of T. G. Ensign, established 151 new Sunday Schools in destitute districts, and gathered into them 557 teachers and 4,058 scholars, besides aiding 142 old schools, which have a membership of 567 teachers and 4,718 scholars. They also held 404 religious meetings, 74 churches grew out of their schools last year, and 1,382 conversions were reported.

THE Maine Congregationalists have held their annual State Conference, and the subject of Union with the Free Baptists was brought up in a paper by Prof. John S. Sewell, D.D., of Bangor Theological Seminary. He favoured the union of the two denominations, and was willing, if the matter of a name should stand between the two, to accept the common name of Christian. A resolution was adopted, expressing pleasure with Professor Sewell's paper, and appointing a committee "to confer with other bodies in the interests of denominational comity."

THE Presbyterian Church in New South Wales has had two majorities. The first was in 1823, when Dr. Lang dispensed for the first time the communion at Ebenezer to the settlers in that place, who up to that time had been indebted to Mr. James Mien for the conducting of services. The church there was the first erected by voluntary contribution in Australasia. The authorities regarded the movement at its outset with suspicion, and a Lieut. Bell and a constable were sent to see if it would be necessary for the public peace to prevent the meetings.

THE failure of the American Episcopal Church to keep up relations of fellowship with other kindred Episcopal Churches not Anglican, has worked, as such neglect always will, to its loss. Thus the Swedish Lutheran Church is thoroughly Episcopal, after the order of the Protestant Episcopal and not of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Up to the time of the Revolution, Swedes coming to the United States allied themselves with the Episcopallians. Since then this fellowship of recognition has ceased, and the Swedes have generally allied themselves elsewhere, with the German Lutherans, the Presbyterians, the Congregationalists, etc.

CHINA is still without a Christian college; but a number of American gentlemen have been organized and incorporated as an association for the purpose of supplying this want. The board of foreign missions of the Presbyterian Church has adopted a minute endorsing the enterprise, and a large number of distinguished men, many of whom have visited China, and two of whom have been American ambassadors at the court of Peking, warmly commend the plan. The college is to have three departments—the preparatory, the collegiate and the medical. The trustees are seeking to raise an endowment fund of \$300,000.

AT the meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and adjacent States, at Hoston, Pa., on the 18th, Rev. Dr. G. P. Krotel, of New York, was re-elected president for the third time; Rev. Samuel Laird was re-elected treasurer; Rev. Mr. Early, of Trenton, English secretary, and Rev. Lindensruth, of Mauch Chunk, German secretary. A committee with Rev. Dr. Leip at its head was appointed to raise \$75,000 for a new seminary building, and Mr. Airy, Pa., was selected as the site. Twelve German congregations in Philadelphia and New Jersey petitioned for the right to form a General Conference. Several clergymen were received from other bodies.

A VERY interesting fact gathered from the Rev. Henry Fairbank's canvass of forty-four towns of Vermont, is that one-third of the population of the State live more than two miles from any meeting-house, and that of these very few attend church. Their children go to school, for the school is brought to them, but they do not go to church. We presume a result of this careful study of the statistics of church attendance will be a strong effort to establish neighbourhood meetings in the outlying districts, and so to carry the gospel to those who do not care to go three miles for it. It is not enough for the Church to say "come"; it must go to those who do not care to come.—N. Y. Independent.

THE United Presbyterian Church has the exclusive possession of Egypt in the mission work. Their force there consists of nine ordained missionaries, one physician and sixteen female missionaries. Besides there are eight ordained native ministers, four licentiates, six theological students and one hundred and seventy native workers. Their policy has been to train up a native ministry and to make the churches self-sustaining and great advancement has been made toward that end. The largest additions to individual congregations are those whose pastors are natives. Their mission field in India is not less interesting. They report an increase of 609 to the roll of communicants during the year.

THE subject of temperance is more and more commanding the attention of the British churches. On a Sunday in May temperance sermons were preached from hundreds of Episcopal pulpits, and on the following Tuesday the annual meeting of the Church Society was held in Princess Hall, Piccadilly, under the presidency of the Bishop of Oxford. The income was reported to be about \$30,000, and the expenditures only about \$15,000. The total membership was 692,785, being an increase over last year of 35,000. Among the Wesleyans the cause is being zealously pushed. The temperance committee of their Conference, after some years of consideration, have come to the conclusion that the time has arrived for the appointment of a visiting and organizing secretary, who will give his whole time to temperance work.

ONE of the most interesting of the societies which recently held their annual meetings in London is that of the "Christian Community." The Society has an old and honoured history. It was founded two hundred years ago by the Huguenots, who made London their home after their escape from the persecutions of Louis XIV, and whose descendants towards the close of last year celebrated the bicentenary of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. The society carries on its work quietly but effectively. Its labours among the poor have been abundant, and it has always commended the gospel by deed as well as by word. To the extent to which it has been able it has always carried substantial relief to the needy and the distressed. London has never had reason to regret the reception she gave the Huguenots. They have proved themselves a blessing in her midst.

THE following letter from John Ruskin, in answer to an appeal made to him on behalf of the Duke Street Baptist chapel, Richmond, is so characteristic of the man, that we print it as a literary curiosity. The letter was sent to us by the Rev. J. J. Ellis, pastor of the chapel. "Sir,—I am sorrowfully amused at your appeal to me of all people in the world, the precisely least likely to give a farthing! My first word to all men and boys who care to hear me is, Don't get into debt. Starve, and go to Heaven, but don't borrow, try first begging. I don't mind, if it really needful, stealing! But don't buy things you can't pay for! And of all manner of debtors, pious people building churches they can't pay for are the most detestable nonsense to me. Can't you preach and pray behind the hedges, or in a sand-pit or a coal-hole, first? And of all manner of churches, those idiotically built iron churches are the damnablest to me. And of all sects of believers in any ruling spirit, Hindoos, Turks, Heathen idolators, Mumbo Jumbo, Log and Firm Worshipers, who want churches, your modern English Evangelical sect is the most absurd and entirely objectionable and unendurable to me! All of which you might easily have found out from my books. Any other sort of sect would, before bothering me to write it to them.—Ever, nevertheless, and in all this saying, your faithful servant, John Ruskin."

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