

will necessarily cost many thousands for its erection; and, although the sum now in hand, with numerous liberal promises of donations, will yield a good sum, still the congregation were urged to continue in its efforts to effect so desirable an object. Mr. Spurgeon was very earnest in his appeal, and no doubt his friends will do their utmost to complete the undertaking.

DECLINE OF UNITARIANISM.

The *Inquirer* has the following remarks on the decline of Unitarianism—"Year by year our congregations grow weaker—often in numbers, more often still in social influence and relative importance. It is but a short time since the treasurer of one of our institutions assured us that the denomination to which we belong is gradually changing its character altogether, and that he now drew his subscriptions from the lower grade in the middle class. Or, if we take individual congregations, we find the same results; and Wakefield, Exeter, and Norwich are but individual examples of a universal rule. Liverpool has doubled and trebled its population, and the three Unitarian congregations which existed at the beginning of the century barely maintain their ground either socially or numerically."

PROTESTANTS IN AUSTRIA.

"The situation of the Protestants in Austria," says the *Zeit* of Berlin, "now threatens to become deplorable. It may be remembered that the Protestants of Hungary petitioned the Emperor for permission to form an independent religious community, enjoying the same rights as others. During his Majesty's visit to that country, they were led to hope that their wishes would be gratified, but it is now understood that the request of the Protestant Synod has been rejected, and they have been told that matters must remain in their present state."

MERCHANTS' PRAYER-MEETING.

Mid-day prayer-meetings have for some time been held in Hacken's Hay-hall, close to the Exchange, Liverpool from half-past twelve till half past one in the afternoon, a time thought most suitable for merchants' clerks and others to attend. The attendance has never been less than eighty; the average being 120. They are conducted under the superintendence of the Young Men's Christian Association.

The *Congregational Lectures* will, it is believed, be resumed in November, when Professor Godwin is expected to deliver a course on Christian Faith.

From a statement given in the *Doncaster Gazette* there appears little doubt that Lord Derby's Government contemplate the proposal of a measure next session for the settlement of the Church-rate question. Like the late Ministry, they are collecting information on the subject. We cannot suppose that any bill proposed by the Government will be any other than a compromise unacceptable to the opponents of Church-rates. Their wisest course is undoubtedly to disregard all ministerial rumours and promises, and press forward simultaneously the measure for total repeal which has already obtained the sanction of the House of Commons, and Mr. Duncombe's "Bill to transfer the freehold of the parish churches and church-yards from the parsons to the representatives of the parish."

MINISTERS FOR AUSTRALIA.

The following is an extract from a letter from the Rev. Thomas James, secretary of the Colonial Missionary Society:—During the past year fifteen ministers were sent to the Australian colonies, all of whom, with the exception of Mr. Jacob Jones—who by a mysterious Providence was lost by shipwreck within sight of his intended home—have found their appropriate spheres of labour. Mr. J. G. Reed, whose early death you noticed in a recent number of your journal, is also an exception. Of Mr. Arnold's arrival we have not yet heard, though it is to be hoped he has reached Sydney, and entered on his labours in that city before now. The remaining thirteen have been cordially received, are faithfully preaching the Gospel of Christ, and will be sustained by the colonists themselves, without any draft on the Society's funds. At the earnest request of the committee in Melbourne, Mr. Poore has been induced again to visit this country for the purpose of obtaining an additional number of suitable men, for whom important and promising stations are provided. Since his arrival the committee have been actively engaged in efforts to meet this renewed demand, and are happy in being