

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY.

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES IN THE UNITED STATES.—The General Assembly of the Old School Presbyterian Church met at New Orleans on the 6th May. The Rev. Dr. Scott, of San Francisco, was elected Moderator. The evangelistic efforts conducted by the several "Boards" of the Church were reported of in encouraging terms. Little favor seems to have been shown to the proposals for union made by the New School Presbyterians, who have lately formed a separate Southern organization. A minute, drawn by Dr. Robt. Breckenridge, disapproving of any changes in the old English Bible by the American Bible Society, was unanimously passed. It was agreed to hold the next General Assembly at Indianapolis.

The General Assembly of the New School Presbyterian Church commenced its sessions on the 20th May, at Chicago.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.—This question engages the serious attention of Christians both in London and in New York. In both cities, open trading on the Lord's Day is carried on to a great extent. Consentaneous preaching on this subject has been resorted to with good effect. The Bishop of London recommended all his clergy to adopt this course. But, besides moral and religious suasion, there is needed the strong arm of law. We are glad to observe that the matter has not been entirely neglected in our Canadian Legislature. The Hon. Mr. DeBlaquiere in the Upper House, and Mr. Brown, M.P.P. in the Lower, have introduced a Bill to enforce the closing of Public Offices, Canals, etc., on the Sabbath. An important meeting in support of this Bill was held at Toronto on the 4th May.

ORGAN CONTROVERSY.—The question of the introduction of instrumental music into the public services of the House of God, has again been discussed in the Annual Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland. The Claremont Street Congregation in Glasgow, who possess an organ, have petitioned for liberty to use it. The liberty was refused by an immense majority of votes.

REVISION OF THE ENGLISH LITURGY.—Lord Ebury recently made a motion in the House of Lords on this subject, and supported it in an able and temperate speech. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of St. David's, speaking for the Episcopal Bench, stoutly resisted the motion and deprecated any change. The Prime Minister concurred with the Right Reverend Lords. Earl Grey and other Lay Lords spoke in favor of revision. The "Times" next morning supported the same view in a pungent leading article. At the close of the discussion, Lord Ebury withdrew his motion.

MEETING AT MONTREAL IN FAVOR OF PRESBYTERIAN UNION.—On the evening of the 18th May a meeting of the Office-bearers of the three Congregations in this city connected with the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the United Presbyterian Church, was held in the Lecture Room of the Free Church, Coté Street. Resolutions were unanimously passed approving of the basis of union agreed on by the Committees of those Churches, and expressing an earnest hope that the union may be speedily formed. The meeting was numerously attended, and an excellent spirit prevailed.

SYNOD IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—This Synod began its Annual Sessions at Montreal on the 26th May. The Rev. George Bell of Clifton was chosen Moderator. At the time when we go to press, no business of general importance appears to have been transacted.

CHRISTIAN CONVERTS IN CHINA.—The following calculation of the number of Chinese Christians is furnished by a Missionary of the English Presbyterian Church:—"The number of converts in the Canton Province is at present about 400; at Shanghai, 199; at Ningpo, 130; at Foochow a small number; at Amoy there are about 400. Of these, there are in Amoy itself 190 connected with the London Missionary Society, and 137 under the care of the American Missionaries; at Chioh-by there are 35, and at Pechuah and Ma-ping 53. And although at this rate there is only one native Protestant Christian out of every 300,000 Chinamen, as compared with the state of matters ten years ago the increase is sufficient to inspire us all with hope and thankfulness."

POPIH PROPAGANDA.—Great efforts are being made to extend the missions of the Church of Rome, through the Society for the propagation of the Faith. The Pope has proclaimed a jubilee, and promised indulgences to all who subscribe to its funds. Numerous allocutions are drawn up by various bishops in favour of this Society.