

satisfaction as to Dr. F's testimonials, and his views of Divine truth, and found that there is nothing in his views in any respect, to hinder his admission as a minister of this church. The Clerk was instructed to report the application, and the deliberance of the Presbytery thereon, according to the Act of Synod, and the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery was, in the meantime, instructed to avail themselves of Dr. Ferrier's services. We omitted to mention that, among the missionary arrangements, provision was made for the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, at several of the stations, and among the rest, at Sydenham, in the Owen's Sound settlement.

An intimation was made to the Presbytery, of the desire of the Rev. Duncan McMillan, of Williams, to demit his charge of that congregation, on account of bad health: and the Presbytery ordered that, this should be duly announced to the congregation, in order that they may have an opportunity of stating their views on the subject, at next meeting of Presbytery. Mr. McMillan's leave of absence was continued in the meantime, and the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery, was instructed to afford supplies to the vacant congregation, as far as possible. The Presbytery had also on this occasion, an application before them, by Mr. William S. Ball for examination and reception, as an intending student of Theology in the College at Toronto. The Committee appointed to examine Mr. Ball reported favourably, and the Presbytery agreed to recommend him to the College Committee, as suitably qualified for entering the Theological classes, during the ensuing session.

The next ordinary meeting of this Presbytery is to be held at Hamilton, on the second Wednesday of January next, at noon.

#### PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

The following gratifying intelligence came too late for insertion in our last No. —

"Our three students—Messrs. Angus McColl, John McKinnon, and Robert Wallace, were licensed after a very comprehensive and minute examination, and the usual discourses. The discourses indicated good talents for composition, a critical knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and sound and deep views of Divine truth. One of the members of the Presbytery in moving that they should be licensed to preach the Gospel, adverted in fitting terms to the difficulties under which those young men had prosecuted their studies—the perseverance and success with which they had been enabled to do so, and to the grounds for thankfulness to the Great Head of the Church for the happy result—their being now licensed in circumstances so hopeful."

#### PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

This Presbytery met at Kingston on the 30th ult. Mr. Gordon of Gananoque, Moderator in the Chair. We are unable to furnish any detailed account of their proceedings, and can only state that they had several calls before them, and several applications from ministers or probationers, for admission into the Church. The Rev. W. G. McDowell, a probationer of the Irish Presbyterian Church, has recently come out on an application by the congregation of South Gower township, and with very high testimonials from his Presbytery and from the Rev. Dr. Stewart of Broughshane. Mr. McD. having preached several times at South Gower, an unanimous and numerous signed call in his favor was laid on the table of the Presbytery; and his admission having been unanimously sanctioned by the Commission, his settlement will, no doubt, be immediately proceeded in by the Presbytery. A call from the congregation of Ramsay, in favour of the Rev. W. G. Johnston was also under consideration, which we understand Mr. J. has accepted. He will also be immediately inducted to the pastoral charge of this large and interesting congregation. We understood that a call in favor of the Rev. Mr. Geggie, was also presented to the Presbytery; but we have not been furnished with the particulars. This Presbytery has, moreover, recently licensed Mr. Andrew Melville as a preacher of the Gospel, after the usual trials, he having brought very strong testimonials of his qualifications from the Presbytery of Paisley, and

the Commission of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland. Mr. M. has been employed for some time past as a Catechist, or Lay Missionary in Scotland, and has given very satisfactory proofs of his gifts and devotedness. The Presbytery were much engaged in providing supplies for the destitute stations within their bounds—a department in which the labours of the brethren of this Presbytery have been peculiarly arduous and exemplary.

#### MEETING OF THE SUSTENTATION BOARD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.

This Board met by adjournment, at Hamilton, on the 9th instant, Colm C. Ferris, Esq. in the chair, and was opened with prayer. After hearing the Treasurer and Secretary's Report, the Board resolved that full distribution be made for the second and third quarters of the current year, on a quotient of 11, and that the Secretary be directed to make the said distribution in the absence of the Treasurer.

The Board had communicated to them the substance of a letter from the Rev. Mr. Bonar, of Larbert, to the Rev. Mr. Gale, to the effect, that he being strongly impressed with the importance of the Sustentation Scheme, to the stability and extension of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, had brought it under the consideration of the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, and that that committee had manifested great interest in the success of the scheme, and a disposition to render any aid in their power towards its promotion. The Board having considered this statement, resolved to record their gratitude to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church, and to Mr. Bonar, for the interest which they take in this great and important department of our church's affairs, and their conviction that the visit of a competent lay deputy from Scotland, would prove highly beneficial to the interests of the Scheme, and the prosperity of the Church. The Board further resolved to open a correspondence with the Colonial Committee on this subject, and in accordance with the foregoing resolution.

The Board, after deliberation, also resolved that, the several Presbyteries be requested to take immediate measures for the visitation of the congregations within their respective bounds, in so far as they have not yet placed themselves upon the fund, with the view of explaining the arrangements of the scheme, and recommending its general adoption; and further that the secretary and other lay members of the Board, be requested to co-operate, as far as possible with Presbyteries, in effecting this visitation before the 1st of January, 1846.

The meeting was then closed with prayer.

#### Foreign Missions.

##### CHINA OPENED TO CHRISTIANITY.

An Imperial edict has been issued in China, which gives full liberty to Christian missionaries to preach the doctrines of Christianity within the five great cities which are open to the commerce of foreigners, namely, Canton, Amoy, Shanghai, Ningpo, and Fou-chou-fou; and it also gives permission to the Chinese to embrace that religion.

When it is considered that the population of that empire is no less than three hundred and sixty millions, or more than one-third of the whole human race, the importance of this event cannot be over-estimated. Until the present time, it was unlawful for any Chinese subject to profess the Christian religion. Now, we see it admitted in the memorial of the Viceroy Keying, which is embodied in the Imperial edict, that the tenets of Christianity "inculcate virtue and goodness, and reprobate wickedness and vice;" and the profession of the Christian religion will no longer expose a man to penal consequences in any part of the empire. The privilege of erecting churches and preaching is, by the edict, confined to the five cities above-named; but the only penalty for going beyond their boundaries is, that the offender is to be delivered over to the nearest Consul of his own country. Moreover, the five free ports are themselves extremely populous, containing, we believe, in the whole, more than a million of inhabitants; and they are frequented by merchants and others

from distant parts of the empire. They are, therefore stations of the highest importance both for missionaries, who teach with the living voice, and for the circulation of books and tracts. There is no restriction on the teaching of Christianity by native evangelists in any part of the empire; and we learn that already a convert and teacher named Leang Ata has gone to take up his residence in Canton.

The Directors of the London Missionary Society have made this great opening the ground of a strong appeal to their constituents to afford the means of occupying the fields of Christian labour thus presented by Divine Providence. Letters from Dr. Legge, at Hong Kong, and Dr. Medhurst, at Shinghae, show that the missionaries now in China regard the Emperor's edict as an era in the history of the empire: they speak of it with the utmost exultation and thankfulness. Very encouraging letters are received from the missionaries of that Society at Shanghai and Amoy, at both of which places they are gathering congregations, and at the latter they are treated with distinction and approbation by the chief Mandarin.

This important edict was obtained through the application of the French Envoy, Lagrene; and of course its immediate object was the protection of the Roman Catholic missionaries and converts in China, of whom the number is very considerable, and is on the increase. It is for Protestants, if they have not had the honour of (at least directly) obtaining this great concession for the Christian religion, to avail themselves of it thankfully and energetically, and not to let the missionaries of Rome outstrip them in zeal and self-denying effort. Language cannot express the importance to the highest interests of mankind of the course that may be taken by English Christians at this juncture.

ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—MISSION TO CHINA.—We intimated in our last number, that application had been made to a minister of the Free Church, specially qualified for the service, to become missionary to China. It is with very great pleasure we now state, that the party applied to has declined the office. Whether he may not yet be induced to consent remains in the hands of God; but, at all events, the Committee will not be inactive in their efforts to obtain a fit man for this mission. We trust our friends will not relax their exertions in obtaining contributions for the mission to China. Manchester, St. Peter's Square Church, we rejoice to hear, has contributed already upwards of £100 by private donations in aid of the funds. Let all other churches go and do likewise.—From the English Presbyterian Messenger for September.

#### CONTINENTAL CHURCHES.

RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES AT BALE.—In the first week of July, more than 100 pastors from different parts of Germany, Switzerland, Wirttemberg, and Alsace, met at Bale, and were received and entertained by the inhabitants with cordiality and hospitality. The entire city, with its magistrates, took an active part in numerous religious meetings which were held in the spacious Church of St. Leonard. On Monday, the annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Protestantism, which is affiliated to the great German Association of Gustavus Adolphus, took place; in the evening of the same day, a pastoral conference was held, when the pastors communicated to each other particulars respecting the progress of the churches and societies which they respectively represented; these were deeply interesting. On the morrow, after the meeting of the Central Committee for the propagation of the evangelical faith in Switzerland, the annual meeting was held of the Friends of Israel. After the reading of the report, M. Hauameister, missionary to the Jews, (himself an Israelite,) gave an interesting account of his travels and labours; he was succeeded by Dr. Barth, who narrated the efforts he had recently made in England on behalf of the Jews. Devotional exercises preceded and followed the business of the meeting, which was attended by more than 2,000 persons. In the afternoon, the Bible Society held its anniversary, which was even more numerously attended than that of the Friends of Israel. At the conclusion of the proceedings, the assembly adjourned to M. Buchoff's pleasure-ground, situated at the eastern extremity of the city, where refreshments of all kinds were provided.