

British and Foreign.

A PETITION, signed by 800 persons, including Archbishops, Bishops, and Patriarchs of Spain, has been sent to the Pope, asking him to honour the name of Christopher Columbus with the title "Venerable."

REV. JAMES S. DENNIS, D.D., a missionary to Syria and Professor of Theology in the Theological Seminary of the American Presbyterian Mission at Beirut, sailed on September 14th, to resume his work.

THE Secularists in Melbourne, Australia, in their pride, built a great hall, and called it "The Hall of Science." They failed to impress the public, and their hall has been sold to the Young Men's Christian Association.

THE Central Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Ga., recently offered Dr. Strickler, the pastor, an increase of a thousand dollars of salary. Dr. Strickler, while appreciating the spirit of the offer, has declined to accept the proffered increase.

ESTIMATES have been accepted for the building of the Chalmers Memorial Church, at Anstruther, Scotland, which is likely to cost £6,000. Upwards of £4,000 has been subscribed, including £2,000 by Mr. S. Williamson, M.P., who has also paid £273 for the site.

THE Vatican collections of art and literature are among the most valuable in the world. It is significant that the Pope has been notified by the Prime Minister of Italy that if he removes from Rome he will not be allowed to carry away with him these great treasures.

A BIOGRAPHICAL sketch of Dr. Chalmers, from the pen of Rev. David Fotheringham, has been published. It was delivered on the second Sunday in 1888, at South-place Institute, Finsbury, as one of the series on "Centres of Religious Activity and Phases of Religious Development."

PROF. MARCUS DODS, Rev. John Glaspe, and Rev. John Hunter are expected to take part in the special Sunday evening services that are being arranged in Maxwell church, Glasgow, by Mr. Tulloch. The social mission of Christianity is to be the general theme of the course. Prof. Flint and Dr. Donald Macleod will be on the list of lecturers.

UNION is making headway among the Methodists in England. The New Connection Conference and that of the Methodist Free Churches have appointed committees to prepare the way for union. The differences existing between these two bodies are so few and slight that they may be soon one Church. They are now one in doctrine, are substantially agreed in polity and they recognize the same type of worship.

RECENTLY a special meeting was held in Flisk and Creich Free church to celebrate the jubilee of the senior minister, Dr. Taylor, who is well known as the author of "A History of the Disruption," and several other volumes. During the proceedings Dr. Taylor was presented with an illuminated address. Dr. Laird, Moderator of the General Assembly, stated in the course of his address that there are now thirty jubilee ministers in the Free Church, of whom five are in life.

ONE of the funeral sermons in the Grange Church, Edinburgh, to which Dr. Horatius Bonar ministered so long, was preached by Rev. R. H. Lundie, of Liverpool, who is a brother-in-law of the deceased. Speaking of Dr. Bonar's literary work, Mr. Lundie mentioned that one of his poems had reached a circulation of 285,000, another 149,000, and a third 59,000. His own favourite hymn was that beginning "When the weary, seeking rest," although he thought it had less of poetry in it than some of the others.

CALCUTTA swarms with a vast population of foreigners of all nations. A Christian layman—Mr. E. S. Wenger—son of a famous missionary, has planned a polyglot mission to these foreign peoples. Right in the heart of the most miserable dens in the city he managed to secure an old opium den. He turned it into a mission-room for the Chinese, of whom quite a colony exists in the neighbourhood. Already sixteen Chinamen have been baptized, and as many more are candidates for baptism. Burmese, Arabs, Bagdad Jews, Hindustanis, and Bengalis, and many other nationalities are also reached by Mr. Wenger's Mission.

Six studious sons, says a contemporary, form the major part of the family of the eminent linguist, Prof. Francis A. March, LL.D., L.H.D. At the recent commencement of Lafayette College the oldest received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in course; another graduated in the Classical Department; and his sixth and youngest son, entered the Freshman Class, also at the same time graduating with honour from the Easton High School. Two other sons are already in the upper classes in the college, and his second, who is a graduate of both Lafayette and West Point, has a good position in the regular army at Washington. Professor March and most of his family are members and regular attendants of the Brainerd Presbyterian Church in Easton.

THE seventieth annual report of

the General Baptist Missionary Society, records a large amount of work, both in Orissa and Rome, attended by much encouragement. According to the census of 1887, Orissa has a population of over nine millions, among whom the missionaries and their helpers make known the Gospel with commendable earnestness. But alas, for the want of sufficient labourers, the large majority of the people must pass into eternity without once hearing the name of Jesus. In Rome much activity is shown, but what are the two workers and their helpers among so many people? "Alas!" says the report, "that in opposing the Vatican, almost the whole of the intelligence of Italy should go in the direction of unbelief! The Bible is almost unknown."

REV. JAMES MACKIE, of Manchester, in his recent speech before Glasgow Presbytery, said that when the Church Courts in England and Scotland, and those entrusted with the silver and the gold, shut up their compassion from him, poor Scottish residents in Manchester had, out of their scanty weekly earnings, ministered to his temporal necessities with a delicacy and sympathy truly Christlike. He could take them to the hundreds of Scottish families in Manchester who would have been regular church-goers at home, but who, from the weight of the weary struggle for existence, and the apathy shown by the Church at home, never cross a church door. It was his conviction that the Church of Scotland is digging her own grave, through the effects of disappointed and embittered Scottish feeling in England. The Scottish element in England is of more consequence than is imagined at home, and will have to be reckoned with in the future. "Whence comes much of the financial support of the Liberation Society? The Scottish element in England will have a voice and a vote in determining the future fate of the Church of Scotland."

THE Council of the British Evangelical Alliance having accepted the cordial invitation addressed to them by Christian ministers and other friends of all evangelical denominations at Cheltenham, the next annual conference will accordingly assemble in that town on October 22nd, and two succeeding days. The programme will embrace a variety of topics interesting to all the Churches; among them may be mentioned: "The Present Danger to Vital Religion from the Insidious Advances of Ritualism and Romanism." "The Spirit in which Religious Controversy should be Conducted." "The Present Necessity for Firmly and Fully Maintaining the Divinity and Atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ." "The Primitive Records of Genesis, Attested by the Oldest Gentile Traditions." "Scriptural Meditation, the Antidote for Present-day Restlessness and Superficiality in Christian Life." "National Morality and the Opium Traffic." "The Evangelical Alliance in Relation to the Evangelisation of the World." The selected speakers and chairman include Lord Polwarth (President), Revs. Dr. Donald Fraser, Hubert Brooke, F. H. Matling (Montreal), John Hartly (Birmingham), Dr. L. B. White, General Sir Robert Phayre, K.C.B., Revs. J. Hudson Taylor, Talbot Greaves, Dr. Clemanco, Dr. Culross, Dr. E. E. Jenkins, Canon Fausset, H. E. Brooke, Geo. Pancy, Canon Ripley, Colmer B. Symes, and Mr. Donald Matheson (Chairman of the Council). Copies of the programme, and all particulars respecting the arrangements for the Conference will be supplied on application to the secretaries of the Evangelical Alliance, 7 Adam street, Strand, London.

At the late meeting of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Rev. Dr. Arthur T. Pierson, the well-known author of "The Crisis of Missions," and joint editor of *The Missionary Review*, sought and obtained the dissolution of the pastoral relation between himself and the Bethany Presbyterian church, Philadelphia. Dr. Pierson does not leave this church because of a present call to the pastorate of any other church, but because he feels himself called of God to give himself to another form of Christian service. His deepening interest in the work of Foreign Missions, and his convictions that a vast work can be accomplished in the extension of Christ's kingdom before the century shall close are so strong, that he is impelled to go forth as a missionary evangelist, with the purpose of stirring and quickening the Churches in this great work. Bethany church appeared by a number of representatives, who expressed a very warm affection for Dr. Pierson, and their great obligations to him as a teacher of God's Word and a pastor, all uniting in the declaration that the Church consented to the dissolution of the pastoral tie only because of Dr. Pierson's deep persuasion that his obligations to Christ made the change imperative. The members of Presbytery, after hearing Dr. Pierson's full exposition of his views and purposes, reluctantly consented to the dissolution of the pastoral relation, and appointed Dr. T. A. Hoyt to declare the pulpit vacant. Then, in a hearty and most pleasant way, the Presbytery passed a resolution commending Dr. Pierson to the Churches abroad, or wherever God might lead him in his chosen work, after which the church and its outgoing pastor were tenderly committed to the care and keeping of God, and a blessing invoked upon both, by Rev. Dr. Miller.

Special Notices.

THE Presbyterian Church in Australasia has now nearly 500 ministers in settled charges.

THE present year is likely to show a large reduction in the aggregate debt on the church property of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church in England.

"EXHIBITION." Ladies and Gentlemen visiting the city during the exhibition week, if you want some choice pictures—at moderate prices—for your homes—paints, brushes, palettes, canvases or other artists' materials for members of your families, plaques, opal or tiles for decorating, bamboo cases, photograph holders, etc., call at The Golden Easel, 316 Yonge Street.

REV. S. MACAULRY, assistant to Dr. George Matheson in St. Bernard's, Edinburgh, has been elected minister of Tealing Established church, in succession to Rev. W. Elder.

THE Belfast Presbytery has been a fruitful mother of churches, it has one congregation, a very flourishing one, in the Bahama Islands. It has just sent out a delegate to ordain a ruling elder in another congregation at Hamburg.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP should always be used for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. 25c. a bottle.

LECTURING in Montrose Established church on "Indian Missions," Rev. J. Duthie, who recently returned to Scotland after labouring for over thirty years in Southern Travancore, read extracts from letters he had received from the Maharajah of Travancore and his Prime Minister, giving testimony to their appreciation of the social and moral effects of missionary work in that province.

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THE Belgian Christian Missionary Church has twenty-seven churches and stations, with fifty places regularly evangelized, thirty-eight Sunday schools, and seventeen mission schools, twenty-two pastors, six evangelists, seven Scripture-readers, and five colporteurs. During last year 7,850 meetings were held, and 215,500 tracts distributed. The membership shows a steady increase alike in the towns and villages. These latter are penetrated by the colporteurs, who prepare the way for the evangelists, as the latter, in turn, are instrumental in bringing into requisition pastors to care for the spiritual needs of rising young churches.

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