

The assistance of the Archbishop of Syra, in his robes of office, at the consecration of the Bishop of Oxford, and the official representation of the Church of England at the opening of a Greek Church in Manchester, have given much scandal to the evangelical party in that Protean Church. Recently the lower House of Convocation passed a resolution requesting the Archbishop of Canterbury to enter into correspondence with the Abouna or head of the Abyssinian Church—a Church that observes circumcision and the Jewish Sabbath, as well as baptism and the Lord's day, that recognizes polygamy, and makes dancing part of its ritual, one of whose saints is Pontius Pilate, and which holds in the fullest sense baptismal regeneration, confession, faith in charms and amulets, and efficacy of pilgrimage to Jerusalem in cleansing from sin. "The men," says the *American Presbyterian*, "who are eager to fraternize with such a Church as this, would have scorned a proposition to receive the communion from the hands of such men as Dr. Chalmers or Dr. James Hamilton. O Bigotry! how thou dost pervert the ways of God, and the hearts of those into whom thou hast entered!"

SCOTLAND.—The Bill for legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister has passed the Commons. The member for Edinburgh has announced his intention to move that the new law shall not apply to Scotland. Dr. Charles Brown is chairman of the Scottish Association for organizing the opposition to the progress of the Bill.

The Commission of the General Assembly of the Free Church has been considering the Education question. Dr. Rainy's motion in favour of the adoption of a national, undenominational system of education, carried by a large majority.

The *Edinburgh Daily Review*, of the 3rd of March, has a long article upon the late Dr. John Duncan, Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Languages generally in the new College. His work in Pesth among the Jews, previous to the disruption, resulted, among other things, in the conversion of the father of the Rev. A. Saphir, one of the lights of the English Presbyterian Church. "Dr. Duncan professed sixteen languages. Any passage in the Hebrew Bible, or in Rabbinical Hebrew, be offered to read *ad aper-turam libri*. In Arabic he thought he had one superior in the country—in any other Semitic tongue none; Sanscrit he had mastered, and two or three of the principal languages of India he knew a little of; even that composite language the Maltese, he had found his way to the component parts and structure of; to Turkish he was not quite a stranger, and so on. This was when he applied for the Hebrew chair in the University of Edinburgh. He was a man of remarkable simplicity, very eccentric, and absent minded in the extreme, of great goodness of heart, and of childlike faith in Christ."

The Forfar Presbytery of the Established Church, has agreed to overture the General Assembly to take steps at once to promote a reunion with the other Presbyterian Churches of Scotland.

Our attention has been directed to the most complete and elaborate report of the Committee on the Patronage Question, appointed by the last General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland. It was prepared in compliance with a suggestion made by Mr. Gladstone, to explain the position of lay patronage in Scotland, in its historical aspects, and as it exists at the present day; and to set forth, in a brief compass, some of the grounds of the claim made for its abolition. Principal Tulloch dissents from this report, which we regret that our want of space will prevent our giving even in brief synopsis.