

as members of the church, and devotes two columns to statistics of this important and large section which are wrongfully and disastrously ignored in the other Presbyterian churches. Every church should have a record of its baptized but non-communicating members, who are commonly but not correctly called adherents. (2) The Reformed German, the Reformed Dutch, and the Reformed Presbyterian (Covenanter), give the number that have been suspended or excommunicated during the year. It is surely to the credit of the Covenanters of the United States, whose discipline is very strict, that out of 10,000 communicants only thirty-seven were suspended during the past year. The proportion is higher in the other churches above named. (3) The baptism of adults, to the neglect of infant baptism, is becoming a marked feature of the Presbyterian Churches of the United States. Here is an instance *ad aperturum libri*, from Classis of Poughkeepsie, Reformed Dutch Church, numbering 1,161 families.—Infants baptized during year 1875-6, thirty-six; Adults baptized fifty-seven. Classis of Saratoga having 1,009 families.—Infants, fifty-seven; Adults, fifty-five. Presbyterian Church (North), U. S. A., whole number baptized during year 1876-7,—Adults, 15,263; infants, 18,092: whereas the Presbyterian Church in Canada during 1875-6 (there is no distinction between infants and adults in the year 1876-7) baptized 8,989 children, and 561 adults.

LIVING INTEREST.

But let it not be supposed that all the interest of these BLUE-BOOKS lies in figures, and the important revelations they make as to the virtues and faults of the churches setting them forth. Scattered throughout the minutes, motions, amendments, and reports, we meet with facts stranger than fiction,—we meet with heroic courage, with farseeing wisdom,—we see fitting across the dry pages living men and women,—we rejoice in splendid victories, we mourn over fields abandoned to the enemy,—we are now in the vast prairies, among the Indians of the West, then we walk with Hindoos in the bazaars of India. One writes of persecutions in Mexico, reminding us of Apostolic times; another, with anxious heart, pens his letter with fear of a Mahometan rising lying like a night-mare on the mission. We see the ship leaving for a distant land with a youthful band of missionaries, and we see also the widow returning, like Naomi, empty to her native land, husband and children dead on the battle-field. We walk in academic halls and read reports of learned professors, and we listen also to the clangor and clatter of many printing presses as they pour forth, in various tongues, from their iron throats, Bibles, Catechisms, Confessions, Quarterlies, Monthlies, Weeklies (no Dailies yet), for the old, and pictures, tales, etc., in Weeklies and Monthlies for the young.* Here are specimens at random of the light and shade that flit across these official records:—

THE PESTILENCE.

The Reformed Church (Dutch) has, since 1854, a mission at Arcot, India. Dr. Scudder writes from the Seminary for boys: "We have been terribly

* The Publication Board of the Presbyterian Church (North), U. S. A., issue six different periodicals, and foot up for 1876-7 an aggregate of 8,340,780 separate publications, being books and tracts.