

functions. Father Hyacinthe has published a work in Paris justifying his own position and making a terrible assault on the dominant faction in the Roman Church.

The French Protestant Church Synod will meet again in November. Before its recent adjournment, a resolution was passed unanimously in favour of disestablishing all the churches in France. A time of trouble and division awaits the French Protestant Synod. Evangelical ministers and high Unitarians and Deists cannot surely minister in the same church.

A Disestablishment resolution was moved in the British House of Commons with regard to the English Church. It was lost by a majority of 292 to 98.

The Wesleyan Conference met early last month in London. 750 ministers were present. The denomination continues to show great zeal, and to meet with remarkable success, in evangelistic work.

The Anti-Union agitation continues in the Free Church. The Highlands especially are most injuriously affected by the controversy—many of the simple-minded, honest people being led to believe that Unionists are as bad as Infidels.—Rev. Wm. Knight, of Dundee, has been disciplined by the Free Presbytery for preaching for a Unitarian (Mr. Martineau) in London. The case has excited much discussion. Friendly conferences are now frequent between Presbyteries and congregations of the three negotiating churches. The "mutual eligibility" proposal meets with the approbation of the Presbyteries, so far.

In England the agitation about the Bennett case continues. Evangelicals are sorely tried by a late decision, which allows Popery to be taught in the English Church.

On this side of the ocean, we can refer to nothing notable that has occurred within the past month. No doubt the battle between the Kingdom of Christ and the power of Satan is going on. Happy is the man who is found on the side of Him whose right it is to reign, and who must overcome all His foes!

## SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE.

BY REV E. A. M'CURDY.

Your readers will have learned from your last issue, that the Committee on Systematic Beneficence were able to present to Synod a most encouraging report of the progress which has been made during the past year, in carrying out the recommendations which were issued a few years ago concerning that subject. Stimulated by past success, and hopeful of future progress, the Synod recommended Presbyteries, Sessions and Boards of Managers, under their jurisdiction, to use all diligence to promote the extension of systematic giving during the current year, more especially of weekly storing on the part of all, and of weekly offering when practicable.

As the Committee are anxious to strengthen the hands of all who are desirous of advancing the movement which has been so auspiciously commenced, they determined that instead of issuing a circular immediately after the rising of Synod, as they had done for two years, they would request some of their number to lay before the church, through the columns of the *Record*, the principal facts furnished by sessions in their returns last year; to meet as far as possible the objections which had been raised to their proposals, and to urge the speedy adoption of the system wherever congregations are ripe for the acceptance of the recommendations of the Synod.

In the present article, it is my purpose merely to furnish your readers with the substance of the information which has been obtained from those sessions which have answered the following questions of the circular, addressed to them by the Committee. "Has your congregation adopted the recommendations of Synod, concerning Systematic Beneficence? If so, when, with what success, and how do the results compare with those of the past?" As far as possible, I wish to avoid a repetition of what appeared in the report, and aim rather at supplementing the statements which were made to the Synod.

At the present moment there are upwards of 30 of our congregations which have wholly, or in part, adopted the system of