

Committee, and one of the most influential ministers of the Free Church, has given notice of an *overture in the Presbytery of Glasgow*, the general purport of which will probably be adopted by those throughout the Church in favour of union. As it will therefore be an important historical document, we quote it at length. It is as follows :—

“ I. That in agreeing to comply with this call of the Assembly as to the particular point in question, the Presbytery desire to be understood as doing so on the footing set forth in the Assembly's own resolution, that, apart from the consideration of principle, the entire question of the propriety or expediency of the union contemplated, as well as the time or manner of effecting it, is and must be held to be reserved ; and that, among the considerations of propriety or expediency so reserved, an important place must be understood to belong to the character and amount of agreement or disagreement in the Church upon the subject.

“ II. That while recognizing with great satisfaction the large amount of agreement shown by the reports of the Union Committee to exist among the negotiating Churches with respect to the many important matters relating to their constitution and administration, which the reports embrace, the Presbytery deem it to be unnecessary at present to pronounce any judgment either upon the reports as a whole, or upon any of their details ; and reserve their judgment on these matters till the mind of the Church has been ascertained on the question of principle which the Assembly has submitted.

“ III. That on the understanding, and with the reservations thus stated, the Presbytery, having considered the subject in the light of the information submitted to them, and contained in the reports of the Joint Union Committee, find as follows:—1. That the several Churches adopt the (Westminster) Confession, and require subscription to it in the same entire good faith. 2. That in the particular statements of the Confession as to man's fallen state, as to Christ the Mediator, and as to the application of redemption, the negotiating Churches were entirely at one as to the views which the Confession gives of the teachings of the word of God. 3. That the negotiating Churches hold in common the great Scripture principles—that the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, hath therein appointed a government in the hands of Church officers, distinct from and not subordinate, in its own province, to civil government ; that nations and their rulers are under obligation to submit themselves to Christ and his Word, to favour the cause, and to hold sacred the rights and liberties of his Church. 4. That, while differences exist in regard to the application of the foregoing principles as sanctioning Civil Establishments of religion, none of the Churches make opposition to that application of these principles as part of its public Church-profession, and that they all agree in rejecting persecuting and intolerant principles in religion. 5. That on the view of the representations contained in the reports of the Joint Union Committee, sent down by last General Assembly, the Presbytery are of opinion that there is no objection in principle to the formation of an incorporating union among the negotiating Churches, on the footing of a basis of the Westminster Confession of Faith, as at present accepted by the negotiating Churches.”

FRANCE.—The British and Foreign Bible Society has distributed over 90,000 copies of the Scriptures in France during the year.

Much information concerning religion in France will be found in the article on “The Religious aspects of the European War.”