

and brothers, four. Thus there were never less than nine contemporary generations from Adam to the flood, which would give in one lineal descent, eighty-one different channels, through which the account might be transmitted.

Another important point is the occurrence of the flood at the precise time, and the only time when it could have occurred, without contradicting the sacred history, and the chronological account. The reason assigned in sacred history for the deluge, was the great wickedness of men, for which all were to be destroyed, except Noah and his family. Now, if the flood had occurred ten years sooner than it did, it would have involved Methuselah and Lamech in the destruction of the wicked; for the former lived to the very year of the flood, A. M. 1556, and the latter within five years of it, A. M. 1551. And again it would have involved a contradiction: for if the ark had been completed in fifty instead of one hundred years, and the age of Methuselah and Lamech had been given as it is, it would have brought their death fifty years after the flood! And there is not one year from the creation, at which the date of the flood could have been fixed without involving such a contradiction, till the very date given! This is a very remarkable coincidence; and if the accounts given are fabrications, a most fortunate escape from a fatal blunder.

Who ever imagined, without making the comparison, that Noah lived to see Abram sixty years old, and that Shem lived to see all the glorious things transacted between God and Abram, and finally to see him buried, and to name in the general mourning the father of the faithful? Who would have supposed that Abram lived his whole lifetime, from birth to one hundred and eighty years, and Jacob forty-eight years, while those who for one hundred years of their early life witnessed and assisted in the building of the ark; who were borne triumphantly in it through the swelling flood, saw the opening of heavens, felt the heaving earth when its deep foundations were broken up, and heard the groan of a perishing world? Yet such was the fact. Noah was contemporary with every generation after him down to Abram; Shem down to Jacob; and Arphaxad down to Isaac; Seth and Eber down to Jacob, and probably Eber to the twelve sons of Jacob.

Three narrations bring the account to the time when minute and particular history commences; and when the art of inscribing upon papyrus, and probably upon parchment, was understood. The participations in the awful scenes of the flood lived to see the Pyramids, the pyramids and obelisks of Egypt, and probably to have those scenes stereotyped on monuments and in hieroglyphics which have come down to us. So that we have the account, in a manner, second-hand from Shem.

Miscellaneous

DR. CHALMERS AND THE WEST PORT OF EDINBURGH.

"I will say nothing of the gifts of our minister. They will speak for themselves. But I will speak of something far more important than talents or eloquence or pulpit attractions.—I will speak of the assiduity of his household ministrations. It is to the aggressive principle, which he puts incessantly into operation, and to the activity of his secondary agents, that I ascribe the chief success of our undertaking: and I confess it is most cheering to find that the success of our cause depends upon nothing so rare as genius, or talent, or transcendent abilities, but upon the assiduity of Christian worth and Christian principle. Give me within a stone-throw of the West Port, the most eloquent preacher in the world,—and give me another within the West Port, who has no pretensions to oratory or eloquence, but who plies the families with the assiduity of Christian kindness, and, I say that the eloquent preacher will not attract one-tenth part of those who will be gathered around the other by dint of his plain, household ministrations. Upon this, then, I found my anticipations of the success of my plan. Talents are

rare; and I should give up the cause of the world's regeneration, if I thought that it hinged upon men's high talents. Grace is diffusible; Christian worth may be brought down by prayer from heaven upon all. These ingredients are capable of being indefinitely multiplied, and it is by virtue of them that christianity will be diffused throughout the mass of the population. But look at the present system in Edinburgh. We want a minister to fill in church; and for this purpose we get the ablest and most eloquent man we can find in Scotland, and when he comes he does fill the church by his oratory,—but from whence does he fill it? From previous congregations. There is no creation of new worshippers; there is a mere transference of old worshippers from other places. This is the whole amount of the mere congregational system, with a fine, eloquent, and attractive minister: whereas we get a man on the territorial principle, whose business is to fill the church out of the district,—to expatiate among the people through the week, to be a constant attendant of every sick-bed,—to pray at every dying couch,—to dignify every funeral by his presence,—and to ingratiate himself with all the neighbourhood by his interest in their welfare, and by his attention to the religious and moral education of the young; and this is the right way to get new churches filled altogether by new hearers. It grieves me to hear of jealousies about raising churches here and there. There might be jealousies, if we meant to fill churches at the expense of previously existing congregations; but we do not want that. Our system is such that it creates new customers. We make none it merely on the outside population, which is increasing by thousands every year, in spite of all the crowding and hustle we see on the streets on Sunday, when the bells are going for the church."

EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—The venerable Dr. Chalmers of Scotland, who grows in zeal as he grows in years, in a late lecture delivered by him in Edinburgh, thus pointedly speaks of the great London Convention:—"I have no thought that the Evangelical Alliance will keep together; for a thousand Christian ministers have been sent up to London to pray for union, while notwithstanding all their prayers for such a consummation, they have separated without making one single effort by way of fulfilling the last injunction of the Saviour, by 'going into all the world and preaching the gospel to every creature.' I am for something of a substantial nature. If it could have been reported that they had agreed to a particular course of reunion, that would have been something gratifying; but no such report was ever furnished. If the sixteen ministers who went up to London from this city had returned warm from the Evangelical Alliance with some plan of action for their respective congregations, in uniting together in one great and common effort for Christianizing the people around them, I say this would have been a trophy. If it is all to be mere speculating, I predict that it will be a perfect futility."

THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—A correspondent informs us that Dr. Young, of Perth, has withdrawn from the Evangelical Alliance, on anti-slavery grounds.—*Nonconformist.*

OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S DAY.—The Directors of the principal steam-packet company, whose numerous vessels ply between the Continent of Europe and the ports of Folkestone and Ramsgate, on the south coast of England, have resolved to discontinue the "Sunday sailing" of their packets!

LORD RECTORSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY.—We understand that Mr. Woodworth, the distinguished poet, is to be nominated as a candidate at the approaching election.—*Glasgow Courier.*

THREATENED REVOLUTION IN GERMANY.—Rev. Dr. Baird, says in a recent letter:—"The times are ominous of great evil in Germany. A storm is gathering which will sweep over that country. There is need, therefore, that all that can be done should be done, to scatter the seeds of truth; for it alone can avert the horrors of a bloody revolution. Indeed, I think all continental Europe is going to be shaken to its very centre before many years pass away."

SCRIPTURE PROOF.—The *Catholic Herald*, by an array of those scriptural passages in which the term "world" is applied as descriptive of the ungodly, proves, as it feels, very conclusively that the Evangelical Alliance is properly styled the World's Convention—that is, a convention of the ungodly and wicked, who acted not only under the influence of the world, but by the instigations of the flesh and the devil! Although our Catholic contemporary has failed in its proof in this instance, we are disposed to apologise for it on the ground that it has not been much used to prove any thing from Scripture, and to encourage it, since it has made such an unusual and extraordinary effort, to try again. The attempt would be interesting in relation to the practical dogmas of the Church of which it is put and parcel.

ROME AND THE POPE.—Accounts from Rome continue to speak of the opposition which the new Pope meets in carrying out his reforms. But he does not shrink from the task, and the masses sustain him with enthusiasm. M. Rossi, the Ambassador of France at Rome, left Paris on Monday last for Italy. M. Rossi, it appears, was instructed to recommend moderation to the Pope, and above all things to cultivate the friendship of Austria. An English newspaper has lately been seized at Rome. It is called the Roman Advertiser.

APPOINTMENT OF THE PUBLIC FUNDS TO PORTUGAL PURPOSES.—On the petition of Drumell being called on, the sum of £11,841 was granted. Of this sum £3,000 was voted for finishing the Roman Catholic chapel, and £200 for meliorating a wall around it. At Ferny Sessions a similar occurrence took place.—*Clar. Journal.*

ROSE.—Ronge lately presented a petition to the King of Prussia for permission to preach, but he was ordered to leave Berlin for Breslau immediately, and two gendarmes were sent to conduct him to the railway station.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—A letter has recently been received from Messrs. Alexander and Emerson, dated May 13th, in which they submit a report of the state of the seminary at Lahainaluna. The whole number of pupils who have graduated from this seminary is 296; of these 42 have died, leaving 254 now in different parts of the islands; 108 of whom are acting as teachers; 42 are in the employment of the Government; 31 are otherwise usefully and honourably employed. The great mass of these graduates are among the most respectable and influential members of society, while only about 40 of them have proved immoral and vicious men. In regard to raising up a native ministry for the churches in the islands, the missionaries say that the difficulties are more numerous and serious than was at first anticipated; nevertheless, they are making some progress in the good work. Three had been sent from the seminary since the last general meeting, who, it is hoped, will become active preachers; there were three in the seminary who were qualified to receive license to preach the gospel, and four others were pursuing theological studies with reference to the same end.

WESTERN AFRICA.—A missionary, labouring in this ill-fated land, says, "A strong effect has been produced upon the minds of the heathen in Africa, by the efforts that have been made, at such an expense of life, to send them religious instructions." As an illustration, he says, "When they have heard of the sickness of the Missionary Society's Agents, they have assembled for prayer, that God would spare the life of His servants whom he had sent among them. The whole country of Frantee and Ashantee, and a long line of coast, are entirely open to missionary operations. There is not a town, of any considerable importance, and there is not a kingdom, into which we might not have full and free access, had we men to go and occupy them. We have had, at the mission house at Cape Coast, and other places, men who have travelled hundreds of miles to solicit teachers—men who had never before seen a European—men who had never before heard the truths of the gospel, but on whose hearts the Spirit of God had so far operated as to create deep dissatisfaction with their own system, and an