

LOYAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN BRITAIN.—As an item of general intelligence, we cannot omit to mention the gratifying spectacle of upwards of 20,000 volunteers (the representatives of six times their number) who were lately reviewed by the Queen in person. The moral associations connected with such a spectacle were of a still more sublime character than the mere spectacle itself. Her Majesty was visibly affected, and it is stated that "there were thousands who fervently thanked God, that had put it into the hearts of the flower of England's youth, to bind themselves for the defence of the last asylum of ordered freedom, and of pure and undefiled religion." The review of an equal number of volunteers in Scotland, lately took place at Edinburgh.

UNITED PRAYER IN 1861.—At a meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, it was resolved, in accordance with many communications from various quarters, to prepare and issue an invitation to the church, throughout the whole world, to set apart eight days, commencing January 6th, 1861, for special and united prayer.

THE BIBLE IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN INDIA.—The Committee of the Church Missionary Society have passed resolutions expressing the hope that the prohibition of the Bible in Government Schools in India, according to the motion of the Duke of Marlborough, may soon be removed. In connexion with this we may state that in very short time 1,950 petitions were presented to the House of Lords in favor of the noble Duke's motion.

THE BIBLE MISSION IN LONDON.—Much is being done in London at present for the dissemination of the Bible among the lower classes. There are employed 114 Bible-women. Attempts are also being made for the establishment of a "Young Woman's Home Society," whose objects will be not wholly dissimilar from Young Men's Christian Associations. Two such homes are already established.

UNIVERSAL ISRAELITE ALLIANCE.—We learn from the *News of the Churches*, and *Evangelical Christendom*, that an association has been formed in Paris, under the name of the Universal Israel Alliance, its object being—1. To work out the general emancipation and moral progress of Israelites; 2. To give effectual support to all who suffer because they are Israelites; and 3. To encourage publications for the promotion of the foregoing objects. The appeal is made not only to the 100,000 Jews in France, but to the scattered millions throughout the world.

SURGEON IN GENEVA.—The Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, preached lately in St. Peter's Cathedral, in Geneva. He preferred this church on account of its associations with Calvin.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA.—His assembly met in May. The Rev. I. Hetherington was elected Moderator. Nine new ministers have been received during the year. An interesting Report was given in on Foreign Missionary operations. It is proposed to carry on missions among the native tribes. The Committee also recommended a mission among the Chinese in Australia.

STATE OF RELIGION IN SWEDEN.—From communications in the *News of the Churches*, we observe that there have been recently, several instances of awakening, as remarkable and striking as in America and England.

REVIVAL BEGUN IN NEW BRUNSWICK.—There has been the commencement of a work of revival in the congregation of New Mills, Restigouche, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. W. McMaster. The movement appears to be of the same character as that in Ireland. It began with several being struck down under convictions of sin, while attending a ball.

ANTI-SLAVERY DEMONSTRATION.—Some time ago, the Rev. Mr. Clarke, minister of the Congregational Church, returned from Vancouver's Island, because his colleague was unwilling to resist the feeling which prevailed among many, adverse to the admission of coloured people to the church, and because Mr. Clarke conceived, on good grounds that his colleague was sustained in his course by the Committee of the Colonial Missionary Society, by whose funds they were both supported. This matter is producing a good deal of discussion in England. There is a strong feeling both here and in England in favor of Mr. Clarke, and against his colleague, and the committee that sustained him in what must be regarded as a pro-slavery course.

DEATH OF MINISTERS IN THE UNITED STATES.—The Presbyterian Church in the United States, has lately been deprived of more than one of her leading ministers, first the Rev. Dr. Van Rensselaer, and more recently, the Rev. Dr. Neill. Both were in their day, most useful and esteemed ministers, and had both been called to fill the moderator's chair.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND.

The Assembly commenced its sittings in Belfast on the evening of Monday, 2nd July. During the earlier part of the day, a prayer meeting had been held in the Botanic Gardens, in commemoration of the Revival last year. At this meeting about 15,000 persons were present, and the whole proceedings evinced the depth and extent of the work which has lately taken place in Ireland. When the Assembly met, an admirable sermon was preached by the Rev. W. Gibson, Moderator for the past year. The Rev. S. M. Dill, of Ballymena, was appointed Moderator for this year.

We subjoin a notice of the principal items of business which engaged the attention of the Assembly without reference to the particular order in which they were taken up.

STATE OF RELIGION.

The Report on the State of Religion was presented by Dr. Kirkpatrick. It was exceedingly interesting, and referred to several facts as exhibiting the improved state of religion. It mentioned particularly, Family Prayer, Attendance on Preaching of the Gospel, Prayer Meetings, Sabbath Schools, and the wide and increased circulation of Religious Literature. At the same time there was a marked diminution of crime and immorality. The Report refer-

red also to some of the dangers incident to such a season, and to the duties more peculiarly incumbent at such crisis. These were the following:—1. Expository Preaching; 2. Catechetical Instruction; 3. Meetings for Conference and Prayer; 4. Ministerial Exchanges; 5. Individual efforts to save souls. On motion of Mr. Knox of Belfast, seconded by Mr. Robinson of Broughshane, the Report was adopted.

MISSIONARY OPERATIONS.

Reports were given in on the various branches of the mission work prosecuted by the Church, viz.: Home Missions, Roman Catholic Missions, Colonial Mission, Jewish Mission, Foreign Mission.

For aiding weak congregations the sum of £1418 17s. 1d. had been raised. Mr. McClure gave a graphic description of the growth of the Church in Canada, New Brunswick, Australia, and New Zealand. With reference to the Jewish Mission, the year was stated to be one of progress, although not marked by any great success. In connection with the Foreign Mission, the Report referred to the transfer from the London Missionary Society of three stations with 145 native Christians. At all the stations the work is extending. The Report of the Roman Catholic Mission was given in by Dr. Edgar, who stated, that although the priests are most vigilant and jealous of any one having access to their people, still the work of evangelization proceeded. The adoption of this report was moved by Mr. McNaughton, who, in his speech alluded to the great efforts of the papacy and the large sums raised by the propaganda, £20,000 being drawn from Ireland, while Spain contributed on £5,000, Ireland being the stronghold of the papacy. In regard to the Mission Funds generally, it was stated that there was an increase of more than £2,656, owing principally to the revival of Religion.

DEPUTATIONS FROM OTHER CHURCHES.

The third day of the Assembly was mainly occupied in hearing addresses from deputies from the Free Church and from the United Presbyterian Church in the United States. The deputies from Scotland were the Rev. W. Wilson, General Anderson, and Rev. Dr. Buchanan of Glasgow. The deputy from America was the Rev. Dr. Kerr, Pittsburgh. These deputies delivered eloquent addresses, and received the thanks of the Assembly, through the Moderator. At another diet a deputation from the Presbyterian Church in England addressed the Assembly.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

The Report on Ministerial Support was encouraging. It was stated that the aggregate increase of annual income amounts to £7,000. The Report stated, too, that while "increased incomes were provided for many of our ministers, manse were erected for not a few."

ELECTION OF A PROFESSOR OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND CRITICISM.

A good deal of interest was felt in the election of a successor to the late Dr. Wilson. Several candidates were proposed, some of whom had warm friends and supporters. Ultimately the choice fell on the Rev. D. L. Porter, late Missionary to Damascus. He is said to be a man of piety, talents, and learning.