

lous country; and of the southern portion of this tract, known by the modern name of the Belka, the fertility is so great that among the Arabs there is a proverb, "Thou canst not find a country like the Belka." The predatory habits of the great Bedouin tribes have urged the resident population to congregate in a few centres, one of which is Salt. Measures have been taken, however, of late years by the Turkish Government to bring under some control these wild races, and a European missionary may now venture among them without a great deal of risk.

Jewish Missions.

Mr. Meyer sends a communication to the Meyer Presbyterian *Messenger*, in which he refers to the fact that Jewish papers are always sneering at the insignificance of our missionary returns. He says that there is not so much cause for sneering as they pretend, because there are many "results" which cannot be reduced to figures. He thanks God for the unflinching zeal in behalf of Israel, which is evidenced by the amount which continues to be contributed on its account (upwards of £60,000 last year in Great Britain alone); and he points to the missions of the Free Church as especially hopeful and encouraging. In the September number of the same journal he is privileged to tell of fruit gathered by himself.

Reformation.

Church and State are separated in Mexico. Monastic orders are no longer recognized. Religious liberty is everywhere conceded and, we hope, secured, throughout the country.—The Old Catholics have been recognized by the German and Swiss Governments.—Father Hyacinthe has been elected pastor by the "Catholics" of Geneva.

Federal Union of Presbyterians.

A meeting of Presbyterians of all lands was held in Dr. Crosby's Church, New York, on one evening of the Alliance week—the evening devoted to the French meeting in the Conference. Dr. Crosby presided. Dr. Al'Cosh stated the object of the meeting—the Federal Union of all branches of the Presbyterian family. Two branches have already approved of the proposal, viz., the Church in the United States and the Church in Ireland. Opinions were freely expressed by gentlemen from different lands, and the conclusion was arrived at to appoint a large Committee to bring the subject before all branches of the Presbyterian family.

The Spread of Mohammedanism in India.

It appears to be certain that the population of the Empire of India, says the *Phil Mall Gazette*, is from one-fourth to one-third greater than it was believed to be, or, in round numbers, it amounts to 240,000,000 souls. The census of Bengal, for which alone the details are yet before us, presents several very startling results. Before the census was taken the population of this immense and diversified region was estimated at about 42,000,000. It turns out to be 66,856,859, or more than half as much again as the received estimate. There has been another revelation made by the census as astonishing as the hitherto unsuspected populousness of the province. The Mohammedans number very nearly a third of the whole population. They amount to no less than 21,000,000. The number of Mohammedans in all India used to be estimated at very little more than are now found to exist in this single province. What is still more remarkable is that the followers of Islam are not found in any numbers near the old seas of Mohammedan power. It is in the central and eastern districts that they muster strong, and in these they constitute half the population. The inference is irresistible that they are not descendants of the Mohammedan conquerors, but converts—low caste Hindoos, who embraced the Koran to escape the degradation of their position. And it is believed that the movement is still going on. The discovery thus made of the real importance of the sect in Bengal lends new significance to Mohammedan discontent.

Another Translation of the New Testament.

The *Missionary Herald* contains the following important information:—"On Friday evening, April 11th, there was a joyful gathering at Honolulu. Mr. Bingham writes:—"On the morning of that day I was permitted to complete the translation and proof-reading of the Gilbert Islands' New Testament. What words shall I use to tell you of my great joy! It has been a blessed privilege, for which I would ever be thankful to my Master. We called together some fifty of our friends and neighbours, and more especially the members of the Hawaiian Board and their wives, saying to them, 'rejoice with us.' They began to assemble about half-past seven o'clock. Among them was his Majesty, to whom I had sent an invitation. The Honolulu *Friend* noticing the occasion, says.—'Sixteen years ago, away nearly 2,000 miles to the south-west from Honolulu, there were living 30,000 or 40,000 inhabitants on the Kingsmill or Gilbert Island, in the very