

of fast days as public holidays preparatory to the Communion, setting forth the evils that arise out of their wrong observance. To this memorial the Free Presbytery of Irvine has returned for answer "that being satisfied that fast days are well observed by the people under their charge, and that the full religious services of such fast days are greatly enjoyed by them, beg leave respectfully to decline in the meantime taking any action on the memorial addressed to them by the Provost, Bailies and Councilors of the burgh of Kilmarnock."

A correspondent of the *Glasgow Herald* gives a number of statistics of the United Presbyterians:—"The number of members in full communion last year was 179,652, showing an increase on the year of 1,229, and the average attendance at public worship on the Lord's Day is returned for the year 1870 as 205,009. The preachers or probationers on the roll without charges number 80, and the number of students attending the Theological Hall with a view to the ministry is 139. The amount contributed for congregational purposes for the year 1870 was \$1,079,330. The total income of the Church for the year 1870 was \$1,515,710. The largest Presbytery in the Synod is that of Glasgow, and comprises 76 churches: 52 of these are in the city of Glasgow or immediate neighborhood."

FRANCE.—The annual Synod of the Free Protestant Church of France, met at Magamet, on the 19th of last month. Its work this year must have been of a peculiarly interesting character.

ITALY.—On the 23rd of last month festivals were held in Rome in honour of Pius IX. having reached not only the years but also the days of St. Peter. On that occasion the Pope was very anxious to leave his so-called prison and celebrate mass in the church of St. Peter, but, as usual, the Jesuits carried the day, and the poor old man was obliged to remain in the building in which he has now kept himself shut up for more than a year. Every morning, at half-past seven, he is accustomed to celebrate mass in his own private chapel, but on that day a special mass for Italy was performed by him in the Sistine chapel, in presence of some of his most attached followers. After this service Messrs. Herby and Quinlan presented an address and a considerable sum of money from the Roman Catholics of Ireland. Similar addresses and gifts were also presented by both Italian and foreign dignitaries.

TURKEY.—"One of Christ's soldiers has lately been summoned away in the midst of his years, whose name belongs to the Church catholic, and whose memory will be blessed among tribes for whom no man had cared till this bearer of glad tidings went among them. John Fraser has run his course, and fulfilled his ministry in a noble, self-sacrificing spirit, 'taking nothing of the Gentiles,' nor, for that matter, of the Christian Churches at home. He seems spiritually to have been near of kin to William Burns, and a few other God-given men, whose character and lives have lifted modern Christianity out of the commonplace into which it has generally fallen. We have pleasure in transcribing the following notice of his too brief career from the *Inverness Courier*:—"A rumour has been current for several days of the sudden death of this devoted missionary. We regret to be informed that this rumour, which came from Beirut, has been confirmed by a letter from the Bank of Baghdad, of date 2nd August, just received in London. Notwithstanding recent illness, and the prevalence of cholera and famine in and around Baghdad, Mr. Fraser adhered to his post, till on 20th July, he consented to accompany the quarantine doctor, who was under orders of the Turkish Government to visit a plague-stricken