

only prosecuted; where any other Sabbath-school literature crowds out these precious formularies of doctrine, and where any miscellaneous teaching dispenses with these scriptural rudiments. Luke professed, in his Gospel narrative only to assure Theophilus of those things wherein he had been already *catechized*.—Luke i. 4. Has this practice of our fathers fallen into disrepute and disuse among any of you? We exhort you, return to it with keen relish. Is not this neglect a reason why they, who, for the time they have lived in our Church, ought to be teachers, "have need that one teach them again which be the first principles of the oracles of God," and are unskilful in the doctrine of justification.—Heb. iv. 12.

MISSION TO THE BULGARIANS.—The American Episcopal Methodist Church has founded a new Mission in Bulgaria. The stations occupied are Varna and Schuza. The correspondent of the *News of the Churches* at Constantinople anticipates that the Missionaries will be well received by the Bulgarians, who have an aversion to the Greek Bishops and Priests, and who have shown for years past a great desire to procure copies of the word of God in their own tongue. Only the New Testament has been published in that language, and quite lately the Book of Psalms, and two entire editions have been sold, and two more large editions are now being printed; and, oven with these, it is almost certain that the demand will exceed the supply. To give you an idea of the eagerness with which the New Testament is bought by this people, I will just mention the fact, that last summer, Mr. Barker, the agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Constantinople, visited Bucharest, where there is a sub-agency, and from that place sent forth two colporteurs with Bibles, into Bulgaria. After three months they returned to Bucharest, having sold 3174 copies of the Bulgarian New Testament, and 163 copies in other languages, and the sum received for the sales was enough to cover all the expenses of the tour, and the salaries of the two men; and a balance remained of £60, which was paid into the hands of the Bible Society's agent. Surely, among a people who are thus eager to possess themselves of the Word of God, we may confidently hope that the preaching of that Word, by the living voice, will be heartily welcomed.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The controversy regarding the alterations in the English Bible, made by this Society, continues to agitate the American Churches. At a meeting of the "Board of Managers," a long and vigorous debate took place, but no decision seems yet to have been reached. Several able and influential men, as Dr. Tyng of the Episcopal Church, and Dr. Spring of the O. S. Presbyterian Church, defended the action of the Society. But Dr. Bedell seems, at least in this question, to be a more true representative of the Episcopalians than Dr. Tyng and Dr. Potts a better spokesman for the Presbyterians than Dr. Spring. These Rev. Doctors strongly impugned the action taken, and urged that it should be abandoned. A committee was appointed to bring up a report as to the future course of the Society. There seems to be much difference of opinion regarding the importance and value of the changes made by the Society's Committee of Revision; but we have seen no sufficient answer to the constitutional objection, which is of great weight with us, that the Society has no right to make any changes whatever. The Bible Society is only the Publisher, not the Editor of the Scripture.

OBITUARY.

REV. DR. FLEMING.

DR. FLEMING was born at Bathgate in 1785. In the early part of the present century, he was licensed to preach the gospel in connexion with the Church of Scotland, and was first settled as minister of Bressay, in Shetland. Here he remained till 1811, when he was removed to Flisk, in Fifeshire. In 1832 he left Flisk to become minister of Clackmannan, and, after remaining there for a few years, was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy in King's College, Aberdeen. In this situation he remained until 1845, when he accepted the chair of Natural Science in the New College, which he occupied till his death.

Besides a treatise on Meteorology, published two or three years ago, Dr. Fleming was the author of two standard works,—one on the *Philosophy of Zoology*, the other a *History of British Animals*. As a naturalist, he was universally regarded as standing in the highest rank. He was one of the first to point out, on grounds drawn both from Scripture and science, that the Noachian deluge was of partial extent; and this theory he continued to enforce with perspicuous and cogent reasoning in the chair which he has just left vacant. In the early part of his life he had profoundly studied what is called the Neptunist scheme of cosmogony; and to the last he was, as a naturalist, perhaps too jealous of all opposing or independent theories. Besides the regular works which we have mentioned, he was the author of many articles in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*.

Dr. Fleming died very suddenly on the 18th ultimo. He had attended to his ordinary duties at his class on the previous day.—*Abridged from the Witness.*