

then the world will believe that Jesus is the true Messiah.

Coming to Africa we note two unfavourable items of news. Sir Bartle Frere's Mission for the extinction of slavery on the East Coast has not succeeded; and it is reported that the gallant explorer, Sir Samuel Baker, has perished far up in the Nile valley. God in his wisdom and power will no doubt bring good out of apparent evil. His way of opening Africa for the Gospel may differ widely from ours.

In Spain there is danger of a political and religious reaction. If the Carlists succeed we may expect a new reign of priests—a reign of bigotry, intolerance and terror. There are important evangelical enterprises on foot in Spain which promise well for the future; and it would be an unspeakable pity if they were stifled by the untimely pressure of persecution. But they are in God's hand.

In France and Italy there have been notable revivals of religion, and larger numbers have been added to the Protestant Churches than for many previous years. In Germany and Switzerland the struggle between the Papacy and the Civil Governments is proceeding with unabated earnestness, but with no notable change since we last referred to it. Father Hyacinthe is preaching acceptably to immense audiences of Roman Catholics at Geneva.

In Great Britain the Government attempted to please the Papacy and to do so without offending Protestants by the establishment of a secular University in Dublin. The project failed. It was indignantly rejected by the Romish Clergy, their modest demand being the complete endowment by the Government of a "Catholic University." It was unsatisfactory to Protestants generally; and thus defeat came. The conduct of the Irish Bishops in connection with the bill opened the eyes of many to the vastness of the claims they make.

The Church of England is tormented with internal dissensions and contending parties. The Church of Scotland has to deal with Professor Wallace's case which continues to excite much interest. The

Free Church is in trouble about her "Mutual Eligibility Act." A small secession from her ranks is very likely to occur about the end of this month. The United Presbyterian and Reformed Presbyterian Churches are pursuing the even tenor of their way. The Irish Church is exerting herself in completing her Sustentation Fund.

The American Churches have been visited with extensive revivals. More have been added to the Churches during the past four months than in any corresponding period since 1858.

Within our own bounds the most notable event has been the meeting of the Union Committees in St. John. The deliberations of the brethren were cordial and harmonious, and their findings (we believe) unanimous.

#### THE UNION MEETING IN ST. JOHN.

The Committees on Union of the four Presbyterian Churches met in St. John, on Friday, the 11th April. There were about thirty members present. The conclusions arrived at were unanimous, and the proceedings were marked with that brotherliness and Christian forbearance that become servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. It appears that a difficulty had arisen between the two bodies in Ontario and Quebec with respect to the Headship of Christ over the church. On this point, a Preliminary Conference was held at Montreal last December, and a unanimous finding was arrived at.

The minutes of this Conference having been read at the meeting of the Joint Committee at St. John, they were ordered to be engrossed in its minutes, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"That this Committee, having heard read the minutes of the Conference held at Montreal regarding this subject, does now express its satisfaction with the unanimity of sentiment which is exhibited in the documents produced at that Conference and read to this Committee."

It is believed that this will satisfy the Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church.

Says the *Presbyterian Advocate*:

Two other topics were discussed at the Montreal Conference, both of which were: