

NORWAY.—In a religious point of view Norway is one of the most interesting countries in Europe. Inhabited by an extremely simple people, Christianity has naturally found its place in the domestic and social life of the people. Thus, to give only one example, all the newspapers, even the large official ones, insert on Saturday a list of sermons to be preached on the following day, together with the texts; and then on Sunday morning this list is repeated, and accompanied with those of the religious services for the week. Among the advertisements appear those of religious works; and articles are occasionally written on the various religious questions which concern the district. Sunday is almost as strictly observed as in England. No warehouse, or office, not even the post-office, is open; the steamboats, the only means of locomotion, are so arranged as to be, as much as possible, at anchor on that day. In short, private and public life is so organized that religious life may find its place without difficulty. In this domestic and national piety there is, doubtless, much formalism. There is a dark side to the picture. In this thoroughly Protestant country you may often see in farm-houses images of the Holy Virgin and of the sacred heart of Mary. A great number of the churches are even now in the identical condition in which they were found before the Reformation. The church at Bergen, for example, possesses an altar of thoroughly Catholic appearance, surmounted by a large statue of the Virgin, with an immense wax taper on each side. Other older churches resemble pagodas, with suns and dragons.—*Letter in "La Croix."*

FREE CHURCH STATISTICS—The Free Church possesses 800 places of worship, erected at a cost of £734,641. She has laid out £339,000 on 565 manse for her ministers. She has built 620 schools at an outlay of £207,700. Besides these, there are churches, manses, and schools, to the estimated value of £50,000, erected at the expense of private individuals, and not appearing in the public accounts. The

three colleges of the Free Church cost her £52,459; her Normal Schools cost £22,564; her Assembly Hall £8,500; her offices in Mound Place £7,500. The total cost of buildings has been £1,422,364. Besides these, the church is possessed of properties in connection with her various mission stations in India and Africa, a chapel and a mission-house at Malta, and a church at Gibraltar. Finally, she is possessed of investments in securities of various kinds, belonging to the widows' fund, the aged and infirm ministers' fund, and the several schemes, amounting in all to £226,754. All these properties and values may be called the fixed capital of the Free Church. To give life and motion to the whole, she has acquired a yearly income, most remarkable for its steadiness and constancy, which may be stated in round numbers, but quite within the mark, at £264,000. Of this annual revenue, the sum of £112,000 belongs to the sustentation fund; £14,000 to the purpose of education in schools and colleges, and £38,000 to missions.—*Record of the Free Church.*

RUSSIA.—The *London Christian World* has received a letter from a Russian lady of the highest rank, confirming the statement that the Emperor had been induced to encourage the translation of the Scriptures into the modern Russ, the vernacular of the many millions of Russians who belong to the National Church, and of the two or three millions of Dissenters, such as the Molokani and others. The translation of the entire New Testament has been finished, the publication of all the Gospels and of the Acts of the Apostles has been made, and many thousands have already been put in circulation. The publication of the Epistles and the Book of Revelation will soon follow. A few months ago we could scarcely hope to hear such good news from that great empire. The Lord be praised for it, for, after all it is a part of "his doings" who is King in Zion, and in whose hand is the government of the earth, with its many rulers and its nations.