

ITEMS OF RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

NEW PUBLIC HOUSE ACT IN SCOTLAND.—Scotch papers speak very decidedly of the beneficial effects which have already resulted from the new act, in regard to the closing of public houses on the Lord's day. In the large towns, so quiet a Sabbath had not been seen for many years, as the one immediately after the act referred to went into operation. There appeared to be a determination, on the part of the authorities, to carry it out fairly and fully.

LECTURES ON SYRIA.—Mr. Wortabet of Beyrout, the son of an Armenian Bishop, has been delivering lectures in Edinburgh, to large and respectable audiences, on the subject of Syria.—Mr. Wortabet spoke in high terms of the American missionaries, and also of Bishop Gobat. He spoke of the peculiar adaptation of medical missionaries to Syria.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE AND THE TEMPERANCE MONUMENT.—An attempt has been made by the Directors of the Crystal Palace, to have the charter altered so as to allow the sale of intoxicating drinks. An influential meeting was lately held in Exeter Hall, for the purpose of opposing this attempt. The Earl of Harrington presided, and Mr. G. Cruikshank, the celebrated artist, was one of the speakers.

GREEK CHAIR, KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.—The Rev. P. C. Campbell, of Caputh, formerly minister of the Presbyterian Church at Brockville, and afterwards at Queen's College, Kingston, has been appointed to the Greek chair in King's College, vacant by the death of Dr. McPherson.

THE MISSIONARY SHIP "WILLIAMS."—A letter from the Captain of the ship "John Williams", reports a visit to Erromanga. While the vessel was there, the very man who had given Williams his death-blow came on board. He is now a learner of christianity. When asked why he had killed the missionary, his answer was, "white man had been to the island, and had slain his brother and sister. He feared this white man would do likewise, and so he killed him." The island is now in a great measure reclaimed from heathenism.

FREE CHURCH EDUCATION SCHEME.—The Rev. Dr. Candlish, with his usual zeal and energy, is visiting various places in Scotland, explaining the measures to be adopted in furtherance of the resolution of the late General Assembly, to extend the benefits of the Free Church Education Scheme, so as to provide for a larger number of the neglected classes.

COLONIAL COMMITTEE OF FREE CHURCH.—The Rev. John Bonar has been released from his charge by the Presbytery of Glasgow, that he may enter on the duties of Convener of the Colonial Committee.

PRAYER FOR AN INCREASE OF MISSIONARY LABOURERS.—The Archbishop of Canterbury has, in pursuance of a resolution of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, issued forms of prayer for an increase of labourers in the Lord's vineyard, and for the blessing of Almighty God upon their labours.

THE NUNNERY BILL.—Numerous meetings are being held in the South of Ireland by Roman Catholics, to protest against the Bill for the inspection of Nunneries. The question may naturally be asked, if the nunneries are what they are represented by Romanists to be, why is there such violent opposition to an examination of them?

A MURDERED MISSIONARY.—Mr. Williams, an Agent of the Wesleyan Methodists in the County of Cork, having been on six several occasions severely assaulted by the congregation of Mr. Daly, Roman Catholic curate, has lately died from the effects of the injuries which he sustained.—Mr. Daly and ten others are to be tried for the assaults.

ALLOWANCE TO ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS.—In the estimates for government prisons, the sum of £550 was put down as "Provision for Roman Catholic Priests." On the motion of Mr. Spooner, however, the grant was negatived by a vote of 153 to 136.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.—This University has lately conferred the honorary degree of L. L. D., on the Rev. Alexander Duff, D. D., of the Free Church Missionary Institution, Calcutta.

NEBRASKA BILL.—A feeling of strong dissatisfaction exists in reference to this Bill lately carried in the United States Legislature. The Presbytery of Maumee "commends to all christian citizens within its bounds the most earnest and persevering efforts for the repeal of that enactment, lest such unrighteousness on the part of the nation should bring down the most disastrous results." Other Ecclesiastical Bodies are also speaking out.

THE WAR WITH RUSSIA.—The Emperor of Russia, it is said, is determined to persevere in his warlike operations. Such conduct appears like infatuation, and is most likely to prove ruinous to him.

THE OPENING OF JAPAN.—The expedition sent out by the American Government, has succeeded in opening some of the ports of this long secluded Empire. May the blessings of christianity be introduced among the hitherto jealous and intolerant Japanese.

NOTICES OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

WAYMARKS IN THE WILDERNESS; A Monthly Journal of Scriptural Studies, Literary Observation, and Current History. Hamilton and Detroit; J. Inglis, & Co.

We have lately received the first and second numbers of this Magazine. It is conducted by ministers of three distinct denominations, and thus practically illustrates christian harmony and co-operation, even where there is not incorporation. The exposition of Prophecy is to be a prominent object of this Magazine. Of course many may differ in their opinions and views from the conductors of this periodical on the subject of Prophecy, as there are few subjects which have occasioned so much diversity of opinion. We believe, however, that the subject will be treated in the *Waymarks* in a becoming christian spirit. The articles generally show ability and talent.

THE JUSTIFIED BELIEVER, HIS SECURITY, CONFLICTS, AND TRIUMPHS.—By W. B. McKimzie, M. A., Incumbent of St. James, Holloway. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.

This is a most excellent work on the important subject of justification. The author describes in a clear and satisfactory way, the nature and method of justification, showing the unscriptural character of the Romish doctrines on these points. He then proceeds to set forth the evidences of justification and the blessed effects which flow from it. The treatise is orthodox and evangelical in doctrine and spirit, and is well fitted to be useful in the present day when error on vital points is so rife.

THE STORY OF NINEVEH, ITS GREATNESS AND RUINS. Philadelphia; Presbyterian Board of Publication.

This interesting little volume has been written for the purpose of making the young acquainted with the history of ancient Nineveh, and in some measure with the discoveries of modern times relative to this celebrated city. It is well fitted to answer its object and instruct the youthful reader. The Presbyterian Board has issued from time to time a number of most useful and attractive volumes for the young, and the present volume is worthy of occupying a high place in this list.

ASLEEP IN JESUS, OR WORDS OF CONSOLATION TO BEGRIEVED PARENTS.—By the Rev. W. B. Clark now of Quebec. Philadelphia, W. S. Martien.—For Sale by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

This volume, written by Mr. Clark, formerly of Dumfries, now of Quebec, is admirably adapted for the direction and consolation of sorrowing parents. The excellent author manifests not only an intimate acquaintance with the word and ways of God, but also a tender sympathy with the afflicted. It is just such a manual as a minister would wish to put into the hand of a bereaved and sorrowing parent.

EMBLEMS, DIVINE AND MORAL.—By Francis Quarles. New York; R. Carter & Brothers; Sold by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

Francis Quarles the Author of the Emblems, was a distinguished scholar, and filled several situations of prominence during the reign of the first Charles, whose cause he warmly espoused. He was distinguished for his profound knowledge, his ready wit, and fervent piety. In the "Emblems" along with much quaintness, will be found much real poetry, and much that will be appreciated by the true christian. This valuable edition of an old work is accompanied by a number of illustrated embellishments which add greatly to its worth.

VARA; OR THE CHILD OF ADOPTION.—New York, R. Carter & Brothers, Sold by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

This volume, which contains the history of a child sent by its parents from the Pacific Isles to America for the purpose of being educated, will be read by many with great pleasure. It is written with more than ordinary talent, and an