

IV.—EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

"The question is often asked," said an acute Scotchman of Edinburgh, in presiding at one of our meetings in the Free Assembly Hall, "whether missions pay, and the exact cost of a convert is reckoned with mathematical precision. It might be well to ask whether a convert costs more than a *horse trained for the Newmarket races*, and worth while, perhaps, to compare the results generally; in the latter case there is a crop of gamblers, and a whole group of evils which the highest statesmanship is incompetent to grapple with."

Rev. Dr. John Pagan, of Bothwell, Scotland, has devised a method of instructing the people of the Established Church of Scotland in their own missions, which is certainly to be commended for both originality and efficiency. He prepares *lectures in outline* upon each of the mission fields, which lectures are intended to accompany lime-light views, which are obtainable for use at a moderate rental. These outline lectures with the lantern slides, which they are prepared to explain, are loaned to ministers, etc., for use in congregations. So far the plan is not wholly new, perhaps; but in examining the method more in detail, I found that the slides are interspersed with *printed matter*, which can be thrown on the screen and read by the observer. Statistics, not easily borne in mind by a lecturer, quotations from missionaries, travelers, and writers on missions, and any other literary matter helpful in educating the people in the missionary history of the church are photographed on slides and used like other photographs as a part of the lecture. In this way, for example, there will be views of the mission premises in India, and of the various workers in the field, the habits and customs of the people, their temples, idols, superstitions, and ceremonies; and with them carefully prepared printed statements of facts not

conveyable without words, like the progress of missions, the ratio of converts, native workers, etc., to the population, and mission force, and striking commendations from high authorities. The whole plan is marked by great wisdom and adaptation to the ends that are sought, by the committee of which Dr. Pagan is chairman.

Rev. Dr. Kellogg, formerly a missionary of the Presbyterian Board in India, returned to India two years ago to take part in the work of making a new translation of the Scriptures into the Hindu language. Now the North India Bible Society has invited Rev. Theodore S. Wynkoop, pastor of the Western church, Washington, D. C., but for years a missionary in India, to become its secretary, making Allahabad his place of residence, and directing the entire Bible work in Northern India from that place, at the same time giving him permission to engage in evangelistic labors as the way may be opened. Mr. Wynkoop has accepted the invitation, notwithstanding the trial he will experience in leaving a people warmly attached to him and among whom his labors have been greatly blessed.

News of the destruction of a mission and the disappearance of two English missionaries in the Solomon Islands has been brought by the steamer *Monowai*, which arrived at San Francisco on May 10th. The reports are somewhat indefinite, but it would appear that the mission was attacked by the cannibal natives, and that while some of the missionaries succeeded in making their escape to Sydney, two are missing, and it is feared that they have been killed and eaten. The inhabitants of the Islands bear a bad reputation, and many white men, traders and sailors, have fallen victims to them at various times. The mission there it is believed belongs to the Protestant Episcopal Church, and was established by Bishop Selwyn