

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

DR. JOHN HALL, of New York, is now in Europe.

THREE are seven hundred religious papers published in America.

REV. JOHN W. TOLMER, M.A., of Contin, died in Edinburgh on 27th ult., aged 55.

REV. A. S. LAIDLAW, B.D., Stewarton, Free Church, was ordained last Wednesday at Kilmarnock as missionary-professor to Madras.

THE honorary degree of D.D. has been conferred by Edinburgh University upon Prof. George P. Fisher, Yale, and of LL.D. on Prof. Noah Porter, D.D., ex-president of Yale.

A PLEBISCITE of Newark church, Port Glasgow, shows 250 against 100 in favour of instrumental music, and the Kirk-session has agreed to accede to the wishes of the majority.

THE widow and children of the Pittick Shepherd joined the Free Church at the Disruption, and his daughter, Mrs. Garden, who lately published a biography of her father, is the wife of a Free Church elder.

EDINBURGH Presbytery (Established) has agreed to consult sessions as to their practice regarding fast-days. Mr. Arthur, Leigh, deplored the possibility of their abolition as they are "the last remnant of Presbyterian Protestantism."

MISS SPROU, of 5 Cheyne Street, Edinburgh, has died, leaving over a quarter of a million, of which £4,000 goes to English Church missionary organizations. If one of her legatees has no family, his portion is to go to build and endow an Established Church in England.

It is rumored that a Roman Catholic Hierarchy is to be established in India. For the sake of the inhabitants of that country, we sincerely hope, says the London Christian, this report will prove unfounded. History records nothing but strife, and consequent misery, wherever it has held sway.

THE hospital Sunday collection at Dr. Dykes' church, London, was made up of 3 £5 notes, 41 sovereigns, 48 half-sovereigns, 81 half-crowns, 116 florins, 271 shillings, 311 sixpences, 91 threepennies, 187 pennies and 32 half-pennies—giving a total of £125 0s. 8d.

THE Baptist Mission in Italy have just held their General Assembly at Bologna. The reports read, and the discussions they gave rise to, prove the missionary spirit is strong in them, and that they are quietly but steadily carrying on their work of evangelization in Italy.

THE society for the relief of persecuted Jews has had offered to purchase in Palestine most suitable land on which trained men could be placed, and thus a permanent settlement secured by Christian love for Jews driven out by persecution from Russia and other lands. Surely many will respond to Mrs. Finn's earnest appeal in this matter.

PROF. W. G. BLAIR, of Edinburgh, writing in an American paper, says the story goes that once, in preaching before her majesty, Canon Liddon violated etiquette by addressing the Queen personally—as Bourdaloue and others used to address Louis XIV.—and that it is the penalty of this offence which keeps him from an English mitre.

LAST year the income of the British and Foreign Bible Society reached £238,391, the proceeds from the sale of the Scriptures being no less than £105,517. During the year over four millions Bibles, Testaments, and portions of the Scriptures were issued, making a total of 108,320,869 since the society commenced its valuable labours. Fifty years ago the society's income was only a little over £100,000, and at that time the cheapest Bible was published at three shillings, whereas to-day one can be obtained for sixpence, or a beautifully printed Testament for one penny. "In thy light we shall see light" (Ps. xxvii. 9).

THE report of the Foreign Evangelization Society acknowledges the goodness of God in permitting it to bear some part, though but a humble one, in the great conflict between His cause and that of His adversaries on the continent of Europe. In regard to this work, it is still "a day of small things." Yet in many places in France, in Belgium, in Germany, in Italy, and in Spain and Portugal, the work of making known the Gospel is being earnestly prosecuted, though often under great difficulties. In Spain the death of King Alfonso removed a very formidable repression of the work of the Gospel, for with the fall of the Canovas-Pidal Ministry fell also the hopes of the Romish hierarchy for the time being. The hon secretary is the Rev. Horace Noel, Woking, Surrey.

AN enterprise which is attracting the attention and support of prominent Christians in America is the proposed Christian College for China. The prospectus has just been given to the public by Rev. A. P. Hopper, secretary of the board of officers, who is a Presbyterian missionary resident for the past forty years in China. A public appeal is made for funds with which to establish this institution, where native preachers and physicians may be educated for regular evangelical work among the three hundred million people of the Chinese Empire. The college is to be similar to Robert College in Constantinople and the Syrian college in Beirut. The trustees hope to erect a building as soon as the sum of £60,000 has been secured.

THE Rev. W. C. Reid, rector of Coppenhall, Crewe, has issued the follow-

ing to his parishioners:—"The rector has much pleasure in announcing that funerals may shortly be conducted with full Catholic ceremonies. There will be a handsome violet pall for adult communicants; a white pall and suitable bier for the funerals of children. There will be six funeral lights flanking the coffin on either side. A burial guild is in contemplation, with the object of securing increased reverence in the treatment of the dead, and especially of providing choral burial for deceased members of the congregation, being communicants, and their children. The crucifix will be used on these occasions, with acolytes and surpliced choir. Where thought desirable, incense will be employed, so beautifully symbolical of the mutual intercession by which living and departed are bound together." What rubbish is this talk about incense in the churches. Canon McColl tells us he uses it to remove bad smells. Incense was probably first introduced as a disinfectant.—Freeman.

DR. COLIN S. VALENTINE, of Agra, Dr. Mackinnon, of Damascus, and Dr. Lyall, of Swatow, are now in England, but hope to return to their respective spheres of labour in the autumn. The Swatow Medical Mission, which is, during Dr. Lyall's absence, under the charge of Dr. P. B. Cousland, has been greatly blessed. During 1885 the number of in-patients was 3,867, and the average daily number of in-patients was 200. In addition, 1770 out-patients were treated. All the patients who are able are expected to attend morning and evening worship in the hospital chapel, and as a result over eight patients last year publicly declared their faith and their desire to join the Church. The society has been enabled to send funds to Mr. McAll for the support of the two dispensaries which he has opened at Lea Ternas and Ivry. Dr. Anderson contributes an interesting account of the inauguration of the work to this month's Quarterly Paper, which also contains a letter from Miss Whately giving a cheering description of the work of the Cairo Medical Mission, the pioneer of the work in Egypt. At Smyrna, Dr. L. Prinsick Scott, who is a Jew with special qualifications for missionary work amongst his people, is working with much acceptance. From 6,000 to 7,000 patients pass under the doctor's hands every year, and a house with grounds attached has now been purchased for a hospital.

THE Free Church Monthly for August says it is understood that the Free Churchman who was announced in last General Assembly of the Established Church to have given his lawyer instructions to divert a bequest of £20,000 from the Free to the Established Church is Dr. R. H. Gunning, of Rio Janeiro. The letter announcing this decision was read to the Established General Assembly, and created great enthusiasm among the members. In it the writer declared himself to be ready and willing to join the National Church as soon as it was wise to do so. The bequest which he proposed to make was for the carrying on of territorial work in a great city in Scotland. Dr. Gunning in his youth was a fellow-worker with Dr. Chalmers in West Port, Edinburgh, and after a long residence at Rio Janeiro, on his return to this country, he took great interest in the movement for erecting a new church for the Free Church congregation in West Port, founded by Dr. Chalmers. He is also the donor of the brass plate in St. Giles' Cathedral in commemoration of Jennie Geddes, brought out, it is believed, in reply to a plate on another pillar commemorative, in a sense rather too generous for many strict Presbyterians, of Dean Hannay, at whose head Jennie is said to have thrown her stool.

THE results of the wide-spread revival influence of last winter are beginning, says the N. Y. Independent, to appear in Church statistics. The "comparative summary" of the Presbyterian Church, which Dr. William H. Roberts, stated clerk, has just sent out, shows that the number added the past year, "on examination" was 51,177, the largest ingathering in the history of the Church, showing an increase of 8,205 over the previous year. In 1881 the figures were only 25,344, so that the results of 1886 are more than twice those of 1881, which yielded the smallest returns of any year since 1872, if not since the reunion. The nearest approach to the figures of 1886 was, curiously enough, in 1876, just ten years ago, when 48,240 were added on examination. The average received on examination in the past fifteen years, is 35,337. It is a little curious that, notwithstanding the large number added on examination, the past year, the net increase of members is only 17,784, while in the previous year it was 29,083 on a smaller basis of additions. The number added by certificate does not explain the discrepancy, for while it was 27,516 in 1885, it was 25,490 the past year. There is a gain in baptisms of adults of more than 3,000 this year, the total being 18,474. The number of infant baptisms also indicates continued increase. The Church has gained in ministers, having 5,516 against 5,474 in 1885; in churches, having 6,281 against 6,095 in 1885, and in all its contributions except those for education. Freedmen, and miscellaneous purposes. It takes nearly ten and a half millions a year to conduct the various operations of the Presbyterian Church.

A SUCCESSFUL RESULT. Mr. Frank Hendry, writing from Seaford, says "I purchased one bottle of Harbeck's Blood Purifier to purify my blood. It did purify it, and now I have excellent health." As a blood purifying tonic and system regulator the result of taking R.B.B. is always successful.

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