

objects of the society were proposed and carried; and an auxiliary association formed. The meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Cullen.—*Edinburgh Post, December.*

SCOTTISH EDUCATION BILL.—In the House of Commons at its last session the Scottish Education Bill was lost by a majority of nine, as I reported to you last week, who have since received the appellation, from a member of the Government, of "the infamous nine," and which those gentlemen are binding about their brows as a mark of honorable distinction. The defeat of this measure was considerably hastened by the decisive stand which the Synods of the Established and United Presbyterian Churches took upon the subject at their late meetings. The latter body passed a resolution unanimously against the Bill, both as to its principle and its details; and the former synod were also almost to a man arranged against the measure. It was supported pretty generally by the Free Church; which is certainly not a little remarkable when the fact is taken into account that they, of all others, stand the most determinedly opposed to all Governmental endowments of Popery in any shape whatever; a principle which this Education Bill not only did not recognize but absolutely invaded by affirming the right of all religious systems to be taught in the common Schools at the public expense. It is thought that there will be no further attempt to legislate on the subject of popular education either for Scotland or for England. The facts with regard to Scottish Education, which have been revealed by the census returns, have created no small amount of satisfactory astonishment in the minds of thoughtful and patriotic men. It is shown that there are 14 per cent. or 1 in 7 of the population of Scotland at the day-school. A nation in such a position surely requires no Governmental interference in the matter, and ought not to permit it. The people of the United Kingdom are legislated for far too much already to admit of the free and healthy exercise of their own powers. There are those, unfortunately, who think that nothing can be done well unless undertaken by Government; and, whenever a system begins to show that it has vitality, they come forth with great swelling words, and declare that this religious or educational movement must of necessity, if it is to be effective, be placed under the patronage and control of the State, and thus either destroy or very largely cripple its power for good.—*Correspondent of Globe.*

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH.—It is sometimes denied that the Church of England acknowledges the Established Church of Scotland to be a true Church of Christ. We are surprised at this for several reasons, but chiefly because the 55th canon, framed in 1604—when the Church of Scotland was, as it now is, Presbyterian—plainly directs preachers and ministers before all sermons, lectures and homilies, to move the people "to join with them in prayer in this form or to this effect, as briefly and as conveniently they may: Ye shall pray for Christ's Holy Catholic Church, that is, for the whole congregation of Christian people dispersed throughout the whole world, and especially for the Churches of England, Scotland, and Ireland." Fully acknowledging by this language in the most forcible manner, not only the "Church of Scotland," but clearly defining what "Christ's Holy Catholic Church" is, viz., "all Christian people dispersed throughout the whole world." This, too, is in exact accordance with the known sentiments of the Reformers, and of the whole body of the Church of England for above half an age after. The excellent Bishop of Calcutta says, "The Reformers considered the particular form of Episcopal Church polity, though of great importance, and in their view of apostolical origin, yet not of the essence of a Church; and they framed their articles so as to embrace within their definition the Sister Churches of the Reformation."—*Church Witness.*

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES.—There were, at the time of the cen-

sus in 1851, 23,514 Sunday Schools in England and Wales, having enrolled on their books 2,407,642 scholars, taught by 318,135 teachers. On the census Sunday upwards of 1,817,499 of these scholars actually attended their schools.

MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL AMONG THE JEWS.

The Eleventh Annual Meeting of this Society was held at Freemason's Hall under the presidency of SIR HARRY GORING in the unavoidable absence of SIR JOHN DEAN PAUL, Bart.

A hymn having been sung, the Rev. J. J. HEINZ offered prayer.

THE CHAIRMAN then rose and said, Dear friends in Jesus, I feel deeply my incompetency for that which my friends to-night have called me to undertake. We are met together here for prayer and with a feeling and a hope that, through the assistance of a Divine power, the efforts of this Society may be crowned with success; that our Elder Brother, the Old Olive, may be brought to know that it lacketh life. But how can we do this without acknowledging how deeply we, who call ourselves the New Olive, lack life also? If we are asked what is Christianity, when we look around and see what professing Christians throughout the World are many of them doing, what can we answer? Whether Jew or Gentile, would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would pour out His Spirit upon them! Then indeed would both see and know and acknowledge by their lives that the Day's Man sought by Job had come among us. Then indeed both would look up and see their Leader, like unto Moses, at the right hand of God, saying, "Pardon the iniquity of this people for Thy great mercy, as Thou hast forgiven them even from Egypt until now." Then should we all, whether Christian or Jew; look forward—knowing ourselves to be nothing in the sight of God, willing and anxious to be only door-keeper at the house of the Lord—to the great day of Jezreel; when in the same place, where it is said, "Ye are not my people," it shall be said of Israel and of Judah, "Ye are the sons of the living God." I shall now call upon the Secretary to read the Report.

Mr. YONGE read an abstract of the Report, which commenced with a review of the several missionary stations occupied by the Society in Palestine, Tunis, Gibraltar, Frankfort, Breslau, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, Mulhausen, Marseilles, Lyons, and Paris; and in this country Birmingham, Hull, Manchester, Portsmouth and London. It referred to the closing of the Jewish College after having supplied several valuable missionaries now engaged in the work. The income has not equalled the expenditure consequent on the extension of the operations and the increased number of the missionaries; so that the Committee, unless promptly relieved, will have to commence the year with a debt of £346, while various openings for its agency present themselves and the work is more than ever urgent and encouraging. 23 missionaries are at present employed, including a female Scripture reader. The Report mentioned several instances in which spiritual good appears to have been derived by individuals in every class of Jewish society from the reading of the Word of God and the instructions of the missionaries, and referred in cheering and exciting terms to the general result of Christian intercourse and efforts on the Jewish community at Home and Abroad, and to the increasing spirit of friendship and good understanding between Jews and Christians. The income during the year was £4,269 5s. 5d., the expenditure (including balance due on last account) £4,816 7s. 6d.

The Rev. RIDELEY HERSHELL proceeded to show that Jewish prejudice against Christianity was becoming considerably modified and the minds of the liberal Jews gradually opening to the reception of the truth. He was glad that the present meeting was to be as the one last year,

of a more strictly devotional character than such assemblies usually were, believing that more real benefit would result from the offering of prayer to God than mere speech-making. There were some things in connection with the present position and struggle of Europe which affected in no small degree the people of the Jews. The war in Russia would have a very material bearing upon his brethren the Jews in that land of tyranny, cruelty and oppression. He spoke thus without any other feeling than that of a Christian. He was not raising up a railing accusation against the Czar of the Russians; but was but mentioning a fact, which had come within his own observation, when he said that the Jews are oppressed and trodden down in that land to such a degree that in some respects it surpassed in severity their slavery under Pharaoh, King of Egypt. The Jew is taxed there beyond those who are called Christians; and thus a professedly Christian government taught the Jew to feel that the Christian religion is a system which sanctions tyranny and oppression. But this was not the religion of the Master. Then, with regard to the terrible description of Russia, it fell much more heavily on the Jews than upon the rest of the people. Jewish children at 9 years of age are torn from their mothers' bosoms and carried away, nobody knows where, into some of the garrulous of the country, and probably never to see their parents again. It would be readily acknowledged by every person before him that it must be a hard thing under any circumstances to have a child torn away from one's side; but in the case of these poor Jews they felt a double pang in the knowledge that their children were torn away from their religion as well as from their homes and hearts. The events now taking place however, seem to be regarded by many devout Jews as the fulfilment of prophecy, and they are looking forward to the period of their long promised restoration to their own land. Some extracts from their journals were read by Mr. HERSHELL in confirmation of this fact. He then proceeded to expatiate upon the blessings of Christian union in its bearing upon the Jewish people, leading them to believe that after all Christianity in its essential elements is not the sectarian thing they have been led to believe but catholic and brotherly. He would rejoice moreover, to see all the various societies which are seeking the conversion of the Jews so closely united as to meet on the same platform, and acknowledge each other as in reality but one society having no separate object; the one aim of each and all being the salvation of men and the glory of the Redeemer. (Cheers.)

GLEANINGS ON THE WAR.

[From the *Edinburgh Christian Magazine* for December.]

ONE OF THE FALLEN.

The appendix to a sermon lately published by Dr. Cumming of London, contains extracts from the correspondence of two officers on duty in the Crimea; one of whom has survived all the trouble and memorable conflicts of his noble corps, the Guards; while the other, Ensign Henry Anstruther of the 23d, perished at Alma in his 18th year. The writer of this having known the gallant boy, and having had the high privilege of admitting him for the first time to the Lord's Supper, immediately before joining his regiment, has read with peculiar satisfaction the confirmation which those letters give of the reality of his faith in Christ. But the chief reason why they are republished in these pages is to stir up Christians to prayer in behalf of our officers and men engaged in this war, especially for those who are our brethren in Christ Jesus; and to add to our prayers thanksgiving for the peace of spirit they have enjoyed, and the magnificent any never-to-be-forgotten heroism which they have exhibited.