

classes exercising influence over their countrymen, or connected with the families of the nobles of the land. Our largest chapels are all crowded, while at some, numbers stand outside the doors, around the doors and windows, rather than remain away, while accessions are made every month to the number of communicants. At Amparibe, a larger and more substantial building than the former, which would contain 1400 people, is nearly completed; we want also, and hope to obtain, a new chapel in the neighbourhood of Ampamarinana where the martyrs were thrown from the rock."

We earnestly hope that whatever may be the end, politically, of the present suspense, nothing may interfere with the work which is now so successfully carried on.

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LAST HOURS OF ARCHBISHOP WHATELY.—The following is an extract from a letter in the *Christian Observer*:—"His (the Archbishop's) last illness showed his principles; he then spoke plainly. To one who, observing his sufferings, asked him if he suffered much pain, he said, 'Some time ago I should have thought it great pain, but now I am enabled to bear it.' His intellect was unclouded by illness; he could think and speak. Some one said to him, 'You are dying, as you have lived, great to the last.' The reply was, 'I am dying, as I have lived, in the faith of Jesus.' Another said, 'What a blessing that your glorious intellect is unimpaired.'; he answered, 'Do not call intellect glorious; there is nothing glorious out of Christ.' Another said, 'The great fortitude of your character now supports you.' 'No, it is not my fortitude that supports me, but my faith in Christ.' With such a witness on his lips and in his acts, Archbishop Whately passed away."

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AUTHORISED COMMENTARY ON THE BIBLE.—The following important announcement appears in the *Guardian*:—"We are happy to see that the objections brought against certain portions of the Bible are about to be met by leading theologians of the Church of England in a very practical way. If a false and unfair system of interpretation has been applied to the text of Scripture, the best way of confuting it is to apply a true and legitimate one. The honour of originating the plan is due to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who consulted several of the bishops on the subject, and the Archbishop of York, at his instance, undertook to organise a plan for producing a commentary which should put the reader in full possession of whatever information may be requisite to enable him to understand the Word of God, and supply him with satisfactory answers to objections resting upon misrepresentation of its contents." The plan has received the sanction of the Primate. A committee, consisting of the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of London, Lichfield, Llandaff, Gloucester and Bristol, Lord Lyttelton, the Speaker, Mr. Walpole, Drs. Jacobson and Jeremie, takes the general supervision of the work. The Rev. F. C. Cook, preacher at Lincoln's-inn, will be the general editor, and will advise with the Archbishop of York and the Regius Professors of Divinity at Oxford and Cambridge, upon any questions which may arise. The work will be divided into eight sections: the first of which will consist of the Pentateuch, a difficult subject, and will be edited by Professor Harold Browne; the Revs. R. C. Pascoe, T. F. Thrupp, T. E. Espin, and W. Dewhurst, contributing. The historical books will be consigned to the Rev. G. Rawlinson, editor; the Revs. T. E. Espin and Lord Arthur Hervey, contributors. The Rev. F. C. Cook will edit, and the Revs. E. H. Plumptre, W. T. Bullock, and T. Kingsbury will annotate the poetical books. The four Great Prophets will be undertaken by Dr. McCaul as editor, and by the Revs. R. Payne Smith and H. Rose as contributors. The Bishop of St. David's and the Rev. R. Gandell will edit the twelve Minor Prophets, and the Revs. E. Huxtable, W. Drake, and F. Meyrick will contribute. The Gospels and Acts will form the sixth section; the first three Gospels will be edited by Professor Mansel, the Gospel of St. John by the Dean of Canterbury, and the Acts by Dr. Jacobson. The editorship of St. Paul's Epistles is appropriately assigned to Bishop Ellicott and Dr. Jeremie, with