

PATAGONIA.

The Patagonians, who inhabit a tract of country 800 miles long by 200 broad—the southern extremity of the continent of South America—are *physically* one of the finest races of men in the world. Their average stature exceeds the average stature of Englishmen by four or five inches—a very singular fact, seeing they live under most unfavourable circumstances as regards climate, food, and general habits. They belong to the same Red Indian race as do the other aboriginal inhabitants of South America, but are great contrasts to their neighbours the Fuegians, or inhabitants of Terra del Fuego, who are short, badly shaped, and ugly, and who abhor wine and spirits, while the Patagonians have an inordinate craving for both. They are on the same low level as regards civilization and capacity for improvement. Bourne, who was for three months captive among one of their tribes, says that they seem to possess no religious ideas whatever. But a Frenchman, who was long in captivity among the Northern tribes, along the banks of the Rio Negro, saw some religious ceremonies and feasts in the spring and autumn in honour of the spirits of good and evil. No missionary of the Cross has ever lived and laboured among these wild tribes of the mainland, the so-called “Patagonian Mission” of Captain Gardiner never having attempted anything save on the island of Terra del Fuego. The work is still prosecuted *there*, as our reports of the South American Missionary Society prove. And it is to be hoped that ere long that society will see its way to opening a station somewhere in Patagonia itself. Its people, it is true, seem like the rest of Red Indians, a race destined to pass away before superior races, but out of *every* nation and kindred and people and tongue are to be gathered some trophies of the triumph of the second Adam.

General Religious Intelligence.

DEATH OF PRINCIPAL FAIRBAIRN.

Many of our readers will read with feelings of sorrow and surprise of the death of Dr. Patrick Fairbairn, the Principal of the Free Church College in Glasgow. His death was extremely and most affectingly sudden. He had spent the day of his death in his usual manner, diligently pursuing the round of duties which it was his custom to allot, in a most precise and methodical way, for every hour. Throughout he neither made complaint of illness nor exhibited any symptom of it. At night, after conducting family worship, he retired to rest. Mrs. Fairbairn, on following a very short time after, found him in bed—a corpse. His decease must have been almost instantaneous, without struggle or pain, even without premonition. All was composure and placidity in his aspect, his attitude, and his surroundings. “He was not, for God had translated him,” as in a moment. It is believed there had been a recurrence of a heart affection from which he suffered in April last, after addressing the Christian Convention at the Crystal Palace which was presided over by Mr. Moody.

Dr. Fairbairn was the son of a farmer, and a native of Greenlaw, in Berwickshire, where he was born in 1805. He received his early education in the parish school, under a teacher who trained several men of eminence—among others Dr. George Smeaton, of the Edinburgh Free College; and Dr. James Taylor, Secretary to the Scottish Education Board. Dr. Fairbairn subsequently studied at Edinburgh. His university course was a distin-