

Mendelsohn extracts copiously from it. Recently the Book of Enoch has been discovered, translated from the Ethiopic and published in England. Professor Stewart has lately reviewed it. The discovery of missing books referred to in Scripture, and the many yet to be discovered, joined to the similar signs of the times in relation to the chosen people, give great interest to this and similar works. This book, which makes nearly three hundred pages, clears up some points somewhat obscure in the Bible, and is very full in detailing the events in the reign of Nimrod; the building of the Tower of Babel, and the confusion of tongues; the causes preceding the destruction of the doomed cities; the sacrifice of Isaac, and the life of Joseph; and has some curious facts about the deluge. —*New York Star.*

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PRESENT STATE OF RELIGION IN FRANCE.

We know no other portion of the civilized world which has undergone such frequent, sudden and astonishing changes in its civil and Religious Institutions, as the kingdom of France, during the last fifty years. In that brief space of time, it has passed through almost every ordeal which a daring and reckless ingenuity could devise, for the avowed purpose of improving its political constitution, of developing its resources, and of ameliorating its social condition. No form of government from the wildest republicanism to absolute despotism, has been left untried, no philosophic theory for governing mankind has been unattempted, no imaginable combination of prejudices and passions has not been brought to bear with full and unrestrained effect upon the solution of the great problem of national tranquillity and national happiness.

The fabric of Society has been successively demolished, and reconstructed with as much levity and wantonness, if not with as much coolness and indifference, as if it had been a mere show box, and monarchy and republicanism, military despotism, and unbridled and lawless democracy have succeeded each other, with unexampled and fearful rapidity, shaking the very foundations of the social edifice, and causing the stoutest hearts often to tremble. Nor has Religion undergone a less variety of sudden and violent transformations during the same momentous and disastrous era. The Catholic Religion with all its pompous rites and observances, was during the revolutionary frenzy laid prostrate in the dust, and Atheism in its most naked and undisguised deformity, Infidelity, Scepticism, Latitudinarianism, have at different times held the ascendant, and have reflected their respective colourings on the prevailing habits of the people.

As no nation can exist without some form of religious belief and mode of worship, when the Government has attained strength and solidity, it has uniformly encouraged Catholicism the prevailing creed of the mass of the inhabitants, and of late it has shewn a disposition to recognize and even to maintain the teachers of other forms of Religion, which prevail to any extent among the people. Still after all the lessons they have been taught, and all the sufferings they have endured, our Gallic neighbours are not satisfied and contented with the Sovereign they have chosen, and the Government they have constructed with their own hands.

The French are naturally a fickle and volatile people, fond of novelty and excitement, and ready to rush upon any scheme, which appears likely to gratify their vanity, or elevate their social position. — Regardless of consequences, they act from the impulse of the moment, unrestrained by religious obligations they easily break through the most solemn engagements, and attack the most venerated observances, and nothing but the presence of a powerful and vigilant police, and an overwhelming military force prevent renewed insurrections and deeds of violence.

That a country containing a population of thirty two millions of immortal beings, with a delightful cli-

mate, in the very centre of Europe, should still continue in this convulsed and agitated state, and that a vast and overwhelming majority of its inhabitants should remain either sunk in superstition, or blinded by the still more withering and malignant influence of a vowed infidelity, the capitol reeking with impurity and profanity, and the provinces heaving with political tumult and disaffection, is certainly a very melancholy picture of civilized society, a spectacle rather to be pitied, than envied or imitated by surrounding nations. "Still it must be admitted," says a late intelligent and pious traveller, whose testimony may be relied upon, that—

"There is much in the present aspect of France and other continental states, at once to excite admiration, to encourage hope, and to animate benevolent exertion. At no former period in the history of these countries, was there actually enjoyed through the indulgence of the government a larger measure of religious liberty. Popery, though still true to its character as an inflexible, and therefore unchangeable system, and though animated by the same spirit, is no longer sustained in the same exclusive domination by the great, nor regarded with the same blind and superstitious veneration by the vulgar. Infidelity, though still walking to and fro through the length and breadth of the land, under the guise of a mild and tolerant scepticism, has been constrained by the experience of half a century of bloodshed and crime, to acknowledge the absolute necessity of religion, as that which alone can cement the social union, and satisfy the restless cravings of the collective national mind. Education, literature, and science, though wanting much that is wholesome, and combined with much that is deleterious, are, notwithstanding gradually breaking down the barriers of ignorance and prejudice, and thus opening new channels of communication, by which the streams of eternal truth may reach the domains of darkness. Above all, the Bible, which until very recently had in France been virtually a prohibited book, begins to be widely circulated. Disregarding the fictitious lines of demarcation, which bigotry, leagued with indifference had thrown between the protestant and catholic population, the volume of inspiration now goes forth unshackled, and only requires additional means to travel over the whole extent of the land. Temples of pure and spiritual worship are rising, though still more slowly than could be desired, in various parts of the country. To whatever quarter the eye is directed, encouraging facts present themselves to the view. At the two great naval arsenals of France—Brest and Cherbourg, situated respectively at extreme points, protestant congregations have been recently organized, and authorised ministers have been settled. At Bourges, in the very centre of the country, a protestant church has also been erected. At Paris, numerous institutions have been established, and are actively engaged in the various departments of the same great work of spiritual illumination, and for this purpose are holding communications of cordial sympathy with similar institutions in England, in Germany, and still more in Switzerland. From all these points, the lines of light are spreading, meeting, and delightfully blending. A power, more than human, has evidently been brought to bear upon the moral chaos, into which society had sunk. The spirit of the Eternal appears to be brooding with vivifying influence over the face of the abyss, and amidst all that is dark and confused and cheerless in the present conflict of opinions, the christian is justified in confidently anticipating the period, when the Sun of Righteousness shall shine in cloudless splendour over this hitherto benighted land, and then, but not till then, will peace and harmony and order universally prevail among the people."

ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS.

The month of May, generally one of the pleasantest and busiest months of the year, is the month which has been, of late years selected by the office-bearers and Members of the different Religious Societies in Britain and America, and by the consent of the public, as the fittest season for holding their Anniversary Meetings. At that happy and auspicious period, when the gloom of winter has passed away, and the spring has arrived in all its beauty and loveliness, Clergymen and other representatives of these Religious Societies, may be seen flocking in great numbers from the country to London and to New-York, to join in these annual solemnities, and communicate and receive the latest Religious intelligence, from all parts of the civilized world.

We can scarcely conceive any entertainment,

calculated to afford so much delight and satisfaction to an enlightened and patriotic mind, as the eloquent speeches which are delivered, and the able reports which are read, at many of these solemn anniversaries, and we often regret that we are deprived in this distant colony of the pleasure of attending at such reviving and animated public meetings. We must be content to peruse at a distance, and in an imperfect and abridged form, such accounts of these meetings as the Religious periodicals supply to us, and to lend our aid in giving a still wider circulation to such delightful and profitable intelligence.

The accounts of the May meetings in London have not yet reached this Colony, although we have British papers by the Unicorn till the middle of that month. But we have received by the latest American papers, very full and lengthened accounts of a number of the meetings in New-York, and also valuable abstracts of many of their annual reports, and the following summary of these anniversaries may not be altogether uninteresting to many of our Readers.

The Tenth Anniversary of the Young Mens Missionary Society, of the Reformed Dutch Church, was held on Wednesday evening the 6th May, in the Church in LaFayette Place, J. J. Brower, Esq. President. The Twelfth Anniversary of the American Seaman's Friend's Society, was held in the Broadway Tabernacle, on Monday evening the 11th of May, Abraham Van Sinderin, Esq. President of the Society in the chair—about 3000 persons were present on that occasion. The Anniversary of the American Anti-Slavery Society, was held in one of the Churches of New-York, on Tuesday morning the 12th of May, the President, Arthur Tappan, Esq. in the chair. The American Sunday School Union, held its Anniversary on the evening of the same day, at the Tabernacle, the Rev. Isaac Ferris, D.D. the President, in the chair. On the same evening, the First Anniversary of the Foreign Evangelical Society, was held in Dr. Skinner's Church, Mercer-street, the Hon. Theodore Frelinghausen, in the chair. Also the Eleventh Anniversary of the New-York City Temperance Society in Dr. Spring's Church, Anson Phelps, Esq. President.

The Fifteenth Anniversary of the American Tract Society, was held in the Broadway Tabernacle, on Wednesday evening, the 13th of May, S. V. S. Wilder, Esq. in the chair. On Thursday, the 14th of May, the Anniversary of the American Bible Society, was held at the Tabernacle, the Hon. John Cotton Smith, President of the Society, in the chair. And on Thursday the 21st of May, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met in the Seventh Presbyterian Church in the City of Philadelphia, and was opened with a Sermon by the Rev. Joshua L. Wilson, D. D. of Cincinnati, the Moderator of the last year.

We could easily fill our columns for weeks to come with the proceedings of these and other important Societies, held in the United States during the last month. But we have only room at present for the remarks of the *New-York Christian Intelligencer*, which appear to us exceedingly judicious and appropriate:

"We have endeavoured, in our last and present numbers, as far the state of our columns would permit, to give a brief outline of the anniversary proceedings of the various great national institutions of Christian benevolence in our land. The character of these institutions is not only interesting, but sublime. In them the tribes of the Lord, without any sacrifice of principle, relinquishing no party or denominational peculiarity, lay aside their distinctive badges, and with one heart strive together for the recovery of a lost world. They meet and mingle in harmonious and sacred fellowship, contemplate the toils that have been bestowed, the contributions made, and with grateful hearts recount the results which, by the blessing of God, have been achieved. survey the wants of the perishing, think of their high responsibilities, and cheer each other's hearts in the holy and common cause.

"Hundreds of thousands of treasure are expended, labors and toils are endured, privations and perils are encountered, without a single selfish object to be