

declared open for any one to ask questions on the subject referred to. A few minutes of silence, and an Irishman wanted to know my views about Purgatory. But as I had not referred to it, I told him to wait till we had got through the subject in question. A few minutes more elapsed, and the leader of the French rose and said that all the dates given were false. He could not prove the assertion, and if history was no authority for him it was difficult to convince him. I replied, suppose I grant now that they are all false except two, and these you cannot deny. You are an old man, and so you must remember that of the "Immaculate Conception" was declared only in 1854, and that of the Infallibility of the Pope only in 1870. These are facts and sufficient to establish my point. He sat down and not another word was said on that subject. Then the question of Purgatory, &c., came up, and different persons spoke. Some were most attentive, and seemed to drink in the truth. The meeting dispersed at 11 o'clock. Order was kept inside, and the only thing we found when we went out, was that the reins of Mr. M.'s harness were cut and his horse let loose, but the horse was wise and remained still. This good result followed these public discussions. A spirit of independence was awakened in many Frenchmen, and one of them told me that he was determined to read the Bible and follow its teachings. Other results, we hope and pray, will be manifested in the future. Had I been able to remain and hold public meetings, I am convinced that, with the help of God, I would have met with success.

"Did I not fear to take too much space, I would give details of another most interesting case on the Island, in which a young Frenchman expressed a willingness to undergo persecution for the sake of Jesus. Another in Cape Breton in which a Frenchman of 80 years said to me, when on a bed of sickness, that he was ready to die, because he knew that his sins were forgiven through Jesus Christ. In Him and in Him alone, was his trust."

PRESBYTERIANISM IN CHINA.

IN connection with the Free Church Mission to China, there has been a regularly constituted Presbytery for some years. Mr. McKenzie, of Swatow, who has recently visited Amoy after a prolonged absence, has given a very graphic account of what he saw, and

thus reports his impression of a meeting of that Presbytery :—

"The Presbytery met in Tekchinkha Chapel, in Amoy, and I, for the second time, enjoyed the privilege of being present. In 1865 I was at Baypay at one of the earlier meetings of the Amoy Presbytery, on which occasion there were 7 or 8 foreign missionaries, 2 native pastors, and 7 or 8 elders. Now, in 1874, there were only 5 missionaries, but there were three Chinese pastors, and 14 or 15 elders. It was a goodly sight that Chinese Presbytery, telling of healthy growth, and of healthy indigenous growth. One of the native pastors, being the retiring Moderator, preached a good sermon on the text John xv. 3; then Dr. Douglas was chosen Moderator, and the Presbytery constituted. A native pastor was Presbytery Clerk, and he was ably assisted by a very intelligent and promising licentiate; and it was quite a sight to see the business way in which they went to work—calling the roll, calling for the elders' commissions, &c. I had the honour of being associated, and on the second day of the proceedings addressed the court shortly, giving some account of the work in the Swatow region. The Amoy and Swatow dialects are so closely allied that the greater part of what I said was readily understood, and I was able to make out all that was said by the brethren. It was somewhat amusing to hear Dr. Douglas addressing me, conveying the fraternal regards of the Presbytery and their sympathy with us at Swatow, &c.; and saying all this in Chinese, not in our own mother tongue! I felt deeply interested in all that was done at the meeting of Presbytery. It occupied part of two days—that is, the afternoon of Wednesday and the forenoon of Thursday; the two 'sederunts' occupying fully seven hours, and showing a good amount of earnest work. An admirable paper was read by Pastor Yiap, of the Tekchinkha Church, on the inhuman practice of binding women's feet; and the several congregations will soon have this matter brought before them in such a way as is likely to lead to the Christians setting themselves decidedly against a custom so irrational and so cruel.