

The Sub-Committee gave in their Report on the arrangements to be observed at the union on the 13th May. The Report recommended that the oldest ministers of the Secession and Relief Churches should conduct the devotional exercises and give short addresses: the members of Court to occupy the centre area of the church, elders and preachers, not members of Court, the back pews; the gallery to be open to the public. The admission to the church to be by ticket, in the case of members or others, and that a collection be made at the door for missionary purposes. The Secession Synod to meet on the morning of the union in Nicholson Street Church and proceed to Bristol Street Church at half-past eleven o'clock in a body. The Relief Synod to meet in South College Street Church, and proceed to the same place at a quarter to twelve o'clock, in like manner, and there to choose the eldest minister of the two churches as Moderator of the United Church of the Secession and Relief. It was then agreed that the Presbytery elders of the congregations of Edinburgh and Leith be a Sub-Committee to see the arrangements carried into effect as regards the distribution of tickets and the accommodation in the Church.—James Peddie, Esq., W. S. Convener. The Sub-Committee to revise and arrange the forms of process of both Churches gave in their Report: and it was agreed to recommend to the Synod that a Committee be appointed from the United Synods to prepare rules with all possible speed.

The Sub-Committee appointed to draw up formularies for ordination of Ministers, elders, preachers, and missionaries, gave in their Report, which was agreed to, and the Committee ordered the same to be printed, and a copy to be sent to each. Any alteration or amendment to be sent in writing to the Convener of the Joint-Committee by the end of April.

It was also agreed that the Joint-Committees meet in Broughton Place Church Session House, on Monday, 10th May, at three o'clock noon, to receive Reports; after which the blessing was pronounced. We are happy to say that the meeting was harmonious throughout, and well attended.—*Edinburgh Witness.*

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE JEWS.

The total number of the Jews in the world is computed to be about, 6,000,000, of whom, it is estimated 2,500,000 reside in Europe. Historical vicissitudes, and more especially the progress of civilization and international intercourse, have called forth amongst Jews manifold sects and religious differences. The European Jews are divided into German and Portuguese, according to the part from whence they have emigrated, either from Germany, (whether they are said to have come with the Roman legions,) or from the Spanish Peninsula, where they had been expelled by the holy inquisition. From Germany, a great number of Jews again emigrated to the Slavonic countries, where, under the name of Polish Jews, they have adopted a line of civilization and education peculiar to themselves, and from whence they have sent forth teachers and colonists to almost every quarter of the globe. This accounts for the otherwise rather strange circumstances, that not only most of the European, but also the Asiatic Jews, those born and bred even in Siberia and Palestine, at least understand, if they do not speak German; in like manner the Pyrenean idioms have been preserved amongst the Portuguese Jews, whose principal seat is now England, very few of them having settled in Germany beyond Hamburg and Altona. The great hatred that previously existed between the two sects has now in some measure abated, in consequence of intermarriages; which the Portuguese Jews would by no means allow formerly, being extremely proud of their aristocratic descent, numbering as they do amongst the descendants of their race the families of Pereira, Da Costa, De Castro, Da Silva, Saspottas, Ximenes, and even the house of Braganza. The Jews of the present day are, upon the whole, borne along with the stream of progressive civilization, and strict orthodox amongst them is now of rare occurrence, since strict obedience to the Mosaic and Rabbinical laws is irreconcilable with

the present state of the social condition of Europe.—*London Topic.*

ITALY—ROME.—The Pope is taking the most efficient and prompt measures for the advancement of the agricultural interests of his States. Besides the activity which is now manifested in draining the Pontine marshes, Pius IX. has ordered the culture of rice to be commenced immediately, and a number of engineers are already occupied with carrying out his plans.

A letter from Rome, of the 9th ult. says:—"The Pope has determined on creating an order of knighthood for rewarding persons distinguished for virtue or merit, without regard to creed or nation. It will be divided into two classes, one of which is to confer on the members hereditary nobility, and the other personal nobility. The promulgation of a law, according rational liberty to the Press, is shortly expected."

It is announced that the Pope is about to send an accredited agent to China, to protect the interests of the Roman Catholics in the Celestial Empire.

Letters from Rome, of the 18th March, announce that among the papers seized on a refugee implicated in the last conspiracy discovered at Ancona, were several documents showing that Austria was intriguing against the Pope's government. Those papers having been forwarded to Rome, Cardinal Gizzi, the Secretary of State, immediately addressed a note to the Austrian Ambassador, apprising him of the fact, and demanding an explanation. The latter having contended himself with merely acknowledging the receipt of the note, the Cardinal wrote him a second, which also remained without a reply. The Pope, indignant at his conduct, sent for the Ambassador, who hastened to wait on his Holiness. Their interview was said to have been very animated, and when the Pope conducted the Ambassador to the door, he told him, in the presence of the attendants, "I give you my blessing; but you may write to your sovereign, that if he expects to intimidate me, he is greatly mistaken." One of those letters mentioned that the Ambassador was to quit Rome on the evening of the 18th March.

THE GERMAN CATHOLIC.—I sincerely regret to say, that the chief elder of Czeraki's flock at Schneidmull has been here, and that their union with Ronge's party has been now finally consummated. There is not at present one single flock among the late seceders from Rome in this country which has adhered to the faith of the gospel, excepting that called "the Apostolic Catholic," under the Rev. Dr. Jetimer, in this city, which, I am happy to say, has much increased, and continues to receive constant accessions. The union between the German Catholics and the Infidel Friends of Light is at hand, and a direct motion to that effect was brought forward at the Synod recently held at Magdeburg.—*Letter from Berlin.*

JAVA—CONVERSION OF THE SULTAN OF BANKA TO POPERY.—A letter inserted in the *Diario di Roma*, from a Catholic inhabitant of Java, dated December 1st, 1846, states that the Sultan of the Island of Banka had demanded the rite of baptism for himself and all his family from the Catholic priest at Singapore. He offered to build a church at his own expense in the principal town of Banka. The example of the Sultan would probably be followed by all the inhabitants of Banka, and of the adjacent Island of Bission. The population of the two is about 60,000, most of them Chinese.

ANOTHER SECEDER THROUGH TRACTARIANISM TO POPERY.—It is rumoured that an Irish gentleman, son-in-law of a noble Earl, and who made himself very conspicuous last year by his advocacy of productive labour, is about to add his name to the list of perverts to the Romish Church. His bias towards Popery has for some time shown itself. It is reported that a near relation of the Rev. H. Newman, and a former editor of a Romish periodical, has resigned his living in the Church.—*Church and State Gazette.*

THE SITE QUESTION IN SCOTLAND.—In consequence of the continued refusal of some proprietors to grant sites to the Free Church, a motion was made in the House of Commons, on Tuesday, March 2, for a Committee of Inquiry. The subject was brought forward by Mr. Bouverie, Member for Kilmarnock, and, after a very interesting debate, the motion for inquiry was carried by a majority of 28, the numbers being 69 to 61. The chief opponents of the motion were Sir James Graham, Lord John Bunsick, and Sir Robert Inglis. Sir George Grey, Mr. Fox Maule, and Lord John Russell, supported the motion. We trust that this inquiry will result in a favourable settlement of this practical grievance, and the removal of the persecution to which many of our brethren in Scotland have been subjected.

BE YE ALSO READY.—Meanwhile, trim your lamps—be ready—for the Lord is at hand. The preparation for his coming is not knowledge of the time, but character—holy character; we expect no stop to man's business; just as it was in the days of Noah; as in the days of Lot; we expect no conversion of the world—no removal of errors;—but "perilous times," and evil men and seducers waxing worse and worse; like a flash of lightning; like a thief, as a snare; so shall he come upon a sleepy world. Now then, "little children, abide in him, that when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

PERVERSIONS TO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.—Letters from Rome to this country mention that the Rev. Mr. Horne, late of Southampton, was, with his daughter, received into the Roman communion by Cardinal Acton on the 13th March, and that two other clergymen of the Established Church had made, what is called in the Romish Church, their public act of conformity.—*Morning Post.*

ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL IN EDINBURGH.—We have heard that the Roman Catholics of Edinburgh, on Saturday, concluded a bargain for the purchase of a large space of ground on the Lothian Road, whereon they intend to erect a magnificent cathedral.

SUTTER.—The burning of widows has been abolished in the Nizam's dominions; being the second instance of this progressive improvement in a native Indian state.

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AT BRECON.—A new Roman Catholic Church, on a style of great splendour, is forthwith to be commenced in the town of Brecon, South Wales, a very large sum of money having already been subscribed for that purpose by the leading families in the principality, both Protestant (!) and Catholic.

CONSPIRACY AMONG THE CLERGY.—The Romanizing clergy in Oxford and other places have lately adopted a plan of leaving open the churches half an hour before each service, and half an hour after it, for the purpose of receiving confession. They also contemplate establishing confraternities, first in the metropolis, and afterward in provincial towns, the internal policy of the "society being reserved from the eye of the world, to prevent the anticipation and defeat of their plans." One of the expedients for corrupting the Protestant laity is to be the establishment of "well selected leading libraries" for scientific and literary works, with a judicious admixture of theology, and ecclesiastical pamphlets of a certain sort. Dismissers are to be addressed with soft words, instead of "tongue-hammers," until the principles of the society are adopted to a sufficient extent to put down what the prospectus terms "the discordant confusion of tongues," and substitute "the deep and well-tuned harmony of the one Catholic Church!!!" Fore-warded is fore-armed.—*Oxford Chronicle.*