

### Free Church.

We copy from the *Free Church Missionary Record*, published at Edinburgh, Scotland, the following items of intelligence, in connection with the operations of that body. —

#### INDIA AND JEWISH MISSIONS.

There were interesting reports read about the Jews, and about India and Africa. There are seventeen Jewish converts at Constantinople, who meet for prayer every week, and who are regularly contributing what they can afford for our mission to India; so that you see the Christian Gentiles helping the poor Jews, and then the converted Jew helping the poor Hindoo. You will hear yet, from time to time, some of the important facts that were in these reports. An elder who spoke, Mr. Hawkins, reminded us that there were 150 millions of heathen in India—that is, one-sixth of the whole human family; so that of every six children born into the world, one is born in India; and of every six persons that die, one dies there.

#### THE HIGHLANDS.

The Highlands were not forgotten. The case of fifty congregations, destitute of pastors able to "tell them in their own tongue the wondrous words of God," was brought before the Assembly. "Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matt. ix. 38). But, besides their spiritual wants, there was much said to move our compassion for large districts, such as the Isles of Skye and Ulst, where the horrors of famine are fast coming upon the people.

#### CONCLUSION.

Dr. Duff, the Moderator, gave a concluding address, full of most excellent and weighty advice to ministers, elders, and people. Though he had come from a distant country, yet he felt the great importance of our testifying in our practice, as well as in our confession, that Christ is the Church's Head, and no one is to come between us and Him. He then dismissed, or dissolved, the Assembly, "in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, the alone King and Head of the Church"—all present (and there were about 3000 persons present) rising up as he said this; and having joined in singing together Psalm cxviii. 69, the Moderator prayed, and pronounced the blessing. O that all who were then present may meet in the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven! —(Hebrews xii. 23). —

### The Curse of Ireland.

There was a poor man in Ireland who lived in a wretched-looking hut, or cabin. In this same cabin lived his wife and children, and two or three pigs. They were so poor that they could not afford to send

the eldest boy to school, although he was old enough to go. When he was about ten, a Bible school was opened near their dwelling, where poor children were taught to read for nothing; and there they sent him, although they were Roman Catholics.

Young Pat was clever, and learned to read very fast. As soon as he was able, he used to read some chapters of the Bible to his father and mother every night, after the little ones and the pigs had gone to bed, and all was quiet.

By and by the priest heard that young Pat had been sent to the Bible school, so he came to the cabin and said to his parents, "Is it true that you have sent your child to the heretics' school?" Heretic means a person who is of a wrong religion; and Roman Catholics call everybody heretics but themselves. "Yes," says the father. "How dared you do so?" said the priest. Father—"Because I am ignorant myself, and I did not wish my boy to grow up like myself, with no more learning than the pigs." Priest—"Why did you not send him to our school, then?" Father—"Because I had no money to pay for him, and they will not take scholars into your school without money." Upon hearing this, the priest stamped his foot, and said, "You must take away your child directly from that school, whatever becomes of him." Father—"An' please yir reverence, but I won't though. He is learning well." "You wont!" cried the priest; "then I will excommunicate you, and you shall go to hell." The poor man continued firm, however, for he was beginning to learn from what his boy had read to him out of the Bible, that there was another way to heaven than through the Roman Catholic priest, and perhaps that was not the right way at all; so he refused to withdraw his child from the school, and, in consequence, on the following Sabbath he was excommunicated by the priest—that is, cursed from the altar, put out of communion with the Church of Rome, and, by way of, given over to the devil. The priest's curses did not do the man and his family any harm, however; on the contrary, they went on reading the Bible, and growing in the knowledge of God's truth.

Some months after, the man and his boy were seized with a fever. As the father was very ill, some of the neighbors who were Roman Catholics, went to tell the priest, and to see if he would come and receive him into the Church again, that