

UNION IN ITALY.

In the Synod of the Waldensian Church, held early in September, it was resolved to unite with the Free Italian Church. Of the seventy members of the Synod present when the final vote was taken on the proposed articles of union, sixty-seven voted in favor; the remaining three abstained from voting.

The Articles of Union, as adopted, stand thus:

1. The Evangelical Waldensian Church and the Free Italian Church, convinced that the multiplicity of evangelical Churches at work in Italy forms an obstacle to the work of God among us, resolve to unite so as to form in the time to come one and the same Church.

2. The ordained pastors and the evangelists of the Free Italian Church shall have the same rights and duties as the pastors and evangelists of the Waldensian Church.

3. The United Church conserves the name of the Waldensian Evangelical Church, leaving, however, the power to individual congregations to take the name of the Evangelical Church of —, and expressing the desire that the day may come in which the various denominations in Italy shall unite to form the one Evangelical Church of Italy. Other articles had not been considered at latest advices.

THE DARK CONTINENT.

The more light is shed upon the Dark Continent, the greater interest is awakened for its future. Mr. Joseph Thompson, the English traveller in the East, recently read a paper before the British Association in Birmingham, upon the Niger and Central Soudan, in which he made the startling remark, that for every negro the missionaries had influenced for good by their Christian teaching, a thousand had been driven into deeper degradation by anti-Christian influences. Comparing the West Coast with the Central region, he said: "Behind us are the unwashed, barbarous *sans culottes* of the coast region, with fetishism, cannibalism, and the gin bottle in congenial union; before us lies a people astir with religious activity and enthusiasm, and wonderfully far advanced in the arts and industries." Does the Christian Church realize what a great vantage-ground it has for immediate, aggressive work in that wonderful country?—*Scl.*

DEATH OF SELF.

Oh! when one contrasts the largeness of God's promises and the miserable contradiction which the average Christian life of this generation presents, what can we say? "Hath His mercy clean gone for ever? Doth His promise fail for evermore?" Ye weak Christian people, born weakling and weak ever since, as so many of you are, open your mouths wide. Rise to the height of the expectations and the desires which it is our sin not to cherish; as we ask so shall we receive. "Ye are not straitened in God." "Alas! alas! ye are straitened in yourselves." And, mind, there must be a self-suppression if there is to be the triumph of a Divine power in you. You cannot fight with both classes of weapons. The human must die if the Divine is to live. The life of nature, self-dependence on self, must be weakened and subdued if the life of God is to overcome, to fill you. You must be able to say, "Not I!" or you will never be able to say, "Christ liveth in me." The patriarch that overcame halted on his thigh; and all the life of nature was lamed and made impotent that the life of grace might overcome. So crush self by the power and for the sake of the Christ, if you would that the Spirit may bear rule over you. See to it, too, that you use what you have of that Divine Spirit. "To him that hath shall be given." What is the use of more water being sent down the mill lake if the water that does come to it all run away at the bottom, and none of it goes over the wheel? Use the power you have, and power will come to the faithful steward of what he possesses. He that is faithful in a little shall get much to be faithful over. Ask and use, and the ancient thanksgiving may still come from our lips, "In the day when I call, Thou answeredst me, and strengthened me with strength in my soul."—*The Rev. Alexander McLaren, D.D.*

The large brewers of Portsmouth, N. H., are considerably worried over the effects of the Rhode Island Prohibition law lately passed. For several seasons there have been large quantities of beer shipped from here to Rhode Island, the amount averaging over seventy thousand barrels per year. Since the new law came in force the orders have censed, and it is feared that some of the breweries will have to shut down.—*Scl.*