

sacred and secular to all classes of his parishioners. By his indefatigable exertions several years ago he was happily instrumental in erecting two excellent schools, one in his own parish, and one in the adjacent parish of Snizort, and in recovering funds requisite for their endowment, which had been left by a native of that district, of the name of M'Diarmid, who died abroad. While Mr. Macdonald was always firmly attached to the Church of his fathers, yet from the generosity of his sentiments and disposition he was ever ready to associate with those who differed with him in opinion, and to co-operate with them on the sound basis of a common Christianity. In short Mr. Macdonald will be long remembered in the place as one of those worthy and excellent country clergymen, who acted not only as faithful expounders of the Word of Life, but likewise as the fathers and the counsellors of their people.—*Northern Standard*.

**DEATH OF J. G. LOCKHART, ESQ.**—It is with deep regret that we announce the death of J. G. Lockhart, Esq., one of our most distinguished men of letters, and so well known as the son-in-law of Sir Walter Scott, and the biographer of his illustrious relative. Mr. Lockhart was a son of the Rev. Dr. Lockhart, minister of the College Church, Glasgow, and is therefore to be numbered among the numerous distinguished men who have been reared at the hearth of the Scottish manse.

**SABBATH CAR TRAFFIC.**—The Cabmen in Edinburgh have taken the vindication of their claims to Sabbath rest into their own hands, and, in the reasons which they have put forth, in support of their resolutions against Sabbath cab-traffic, have given good proof that they are fully alive not only to their natural rights but also to the duties which the possession of these rights demands of them. Their reasons are based upon the authority of the divine law,—the authority of natural law, justice, and equity, or the principles of fair play,—and justice and piety combined; and in this broad and comprehensive survey of the question, they fully establish their claim for release from all Sabbath labour, which is not demanded of them for objects of necessity and mercy. So obvious does the propriety of this step on the part of the over-laboured cabmen appear to us, that we cannot anticipate any opposition to it that will not be alike feeble in its argument, and selfish in its motive.

**BELGIC MISSIONARY CHURCH.**—This church or society, for it partakes of the nature of both, is now of about eighteen years standing. It originated in faith, and prayer, and it has been eminently blessed of God. It has kindled a light in Belgium, which, we trust by the mercy of God, will never be extinguished. It is supported wholly by the contributions received from its own congregations, and by aid from Great Britain, Holland, France, Switzerland, and the United States of America. Its head quarters are at Brussels, and there its Synods, and annual meetings are held.

**Its members and organization.**—There are at present nine ministers connected with the Belgic Society, five evangelists, eleven schoolmasters, two schoolmistresses and one assistant, together with one bookselling agent; in all thirty-three labourers of different kinds. They have seventeen or eighteen churches, besides many stations, at which the ministers and evangelists more or less regularly labour.

**FRENCH PROTESTANT MISSION IN AFRICA.**—This mission now numbers eighteen missionaries in that country, almost all of them married; making altogether from sixty to seventy

persons, including wives and children. These labourers are distributed among thirteen stations. The French Missionaries calculate, that since the beginning of the mission they have been the means of the conversion of a thousand persons, who have either died in the faith or are to this day setting a good example by their Christian life.

**THE BALAKLAVA RAILWAY.**—**CHAPLAIN TO THE NAVVIES.**—The Rev. George Gynell, who laboured amongst the men employed on the line near Ross, will accompany the detachment of navvies to the Crimea in the capacity of chaplain, at the entire cost of Mr. Peto, who has also furnished a liberal number of Bibles and Testaments,—not only for the use of the men, but of any others who may need them. Mr. Gynell also takes out with him a large number of Bibles and Testaments, in the Turkish, Russian and French languages, and a quantity of lint and other comforts.

**DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS TO FRENCH SAILORS AND SOLDIERS.**—It appears from the Bible Society Reporter, that Mr. B. Barber, who resides at Smyrna, has furnished a number of Bibles and Testaments to the French Sailors of a frigate which had entered that harbour. Mr. Barker was favourably received by the captain and the first lieutenant; both of whom applauded the Society's system of giving the pure word of God to the people. The first lieutenant, who accompanied Mr. Barker to the boat, said to him: "Do not think that we are without any religion; we have every day prayers on board, and the crew will read the New Testament with pleasure."

**A SPLENDID BEQUEST.**—The late Earl of Beauchamp bequeathed £60,000 for the erection and endowment of almshouses at Newland, in Worcestershire for the benefit of infirm agricultural labourers.

**COLONIZATION OF PALESTINE.**—A party of rich gentlemen have arrived at Jerusalem, with the purpose of commencing a colony in Jericho. There are many similar projects proposed in different parts of the Land. At Tyre and Sidon an architect has arrived from England, accompanied with men and means to commence a colony.

## THE NEWS OF THE CHURCHES. Edinburgh Bible Society.

THE annual meeting of this society was held on the 19th inst. The chairman, Lord Panmure, made an interesting statement, first, regarding the origin of the greatest Bible Society in the world, the British and Foreign; second, regarding the operations of the Edinburgh Society during the past year; and third, respecting the circulation of the Scriptures in the Russian empire,—a subject to which Mr. Bright has lately been drawing public notice. We subjoin the chief portion of Lord Panmure's interesting address:—

"Before proceeding to the special business before them, he wished to be permitted to say a word or two with reference to Bible Societies in general, and in reference to the immediate origin of the great British and Foreign Bible Society, whence all the other branches had sprung, as communicated to him by his reverend friend on his left (Dr. Guthrie.) In the districts of Merionethshire in Wales is situated the town of Bala, and it so happened

that upon a winter day, when storms had enwrapped that mountainous region in winter's robe, the Rev. Thomas Charles preached in his place of worship in Bala on the Sabbath. While making his rounds in the town the following morning, he met a little girl, one of his hearers, and, laying his hand on her head, he asked her if she could tell him from where his text of the previous day was taken. After some little delay, she answered, in a flood of tears, that though she had heard the text, the storm had prevented her from traveling some seven miles, as was her custom every Monday morning, in order that she might read the chapter whence it was culled. This information astonished Mr. Charles, and he was led to make some inquiry upon the subject; and the result was the astounding fact, that the circulation of the Scriptures within his own district extended only in the proportion of one copy to eight families. Mr. Charles having pondered over this startling discovery, determined to proceed to London, to see what could be done to repair such a dearth of the Word of God. He accordingly proceeded to the metropolis, and, within the precincts of a retired place, where the Religious Tract Society Committee held their meetings, brought the matter under the consideration of some kindred spirits like himself. They talked over this destitution, and agreed among themselves as to the absolute necessity of something being done to meet the evil. At first one man proposed that there should be a Bible Society for Wales; but another improved upon this, and suggested that there should be a Bible Society for England. It was, however, felt that they must reach a higher stage; and Mr. Hughes, to his honor, said, 'Let us have a Bible Society for the world?' And from that moment that Bible Society for the world was constituted, the noble tree took root downwards, and bore branches upwards; and upon the upward branches they now saw that the Sun of Righteousness had shed its beams, and that the dew of the Spirit had descended, and they saw the fruits which annually dropped from these boughs. Such was the history of the origin of Bible Societies. Through the exertions of these noble institutions, and of those connected with them, the Scriptures had been circulated, not in hundreds, not in thousands, not even in hundreds of thousands, but in millions of copies throughout the universal world. These Scriptures, which were formerly translated into but a few languages of the earth, were now translated into more than 150 languages and dialects; and they were able to say, that at this moment six-sevenths of the whole population of the habitable globe might gather under the boughs of that noble tree which he had described, and might either hear, or read if they had been taught, of the wonderful works of God in their own peculiar tongue. This was, he thought, a subject of congratulation. He would now refer to what had been done by the society in particular on behalf of which they had to-day assembled; and he thought that when the report for the year past was read, they might congratulate themselves upon the advances which it must also be making upon the ignorance of the Word of God which existed throughout the world. He found that in 1847 the circulation of the Scriptures by this society amounted to 18,818 copies. He further found, that by the assiduity of the committee, and by the zeal of the directors, they had gradually, year by year, and step by step, increased the circulation of the Word of God, until they had, in the year ending to-day, extended it from 18,000 to 44,150 copies. Now, these copies