

MEETING OF THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL KIRCHENTAG AT HAMBURG.—The proceedings of this Ecclesiastical Assembly were opened on the 14th September by a sermon from the General Superintendent, Hoffman, of Berlin. His text was Rom. xii. 1-3. In the first part he dwelt on the Confession of Faith, on which the Kirchentag is founded; in the second, expounded the Apostolic exhortation. This union of Churches adheres to the Augsburg Confession as the expression of its belief. The first subject of discussion was, "The rights of the congregation to special pastoral care"; on which, after an interesting discussion, resolutions were adopted to the effect,—That the partition wall which exists in Germany between pastor and people is a great evil; that the members of the Church have a right to pastoral care, and that it should be sought for by God-fearing people. They appeal to patrons of Churches to provide *pastors*, and advise that Ministers should be bound to pastoral duties at their ordination, and finally express gratitude for symptoms of improvement. There were further considered the important subjects of "The abuse of official oaths," "The connection between Church and State," in which the necessity of Church office-bearers being separate independent persons, capable of acting independent of the State, was advocated. "The relation of the Christian to temporal property" was also considered. Home Missions and the state of the poor in connection with Reformatories, was a topic that excited much interest. The duty of private Christian benevolence, over and above State provision for the poor, was forcibly inculcated. The last subject was, "Popular Superstitions as a hindrance of vital godliness." It was introduced by Prof. Wutke. To a vast audience he unsparingly exposed the idolatry and atheism of daily life in Germany. Strange as it may appear, this Assembly of clergymen met with powerful opposition from the local press. Only one out of the seven Lutheran Churches in Hamburg could be obtained for its meetings. Fears were even entertained of a riot, so great was the opposition of the people; but these fears were disappointed, and a deep interest was ultimately evinced in its proceedings.

POPEY IN IRELAND—The *News of the Churches* informs us that "The most important item of Home intelligence is the recent visit of Cardinal Wiseman to Ireland, and the method of his reception. The object of that visit, by his own statement, is to secure greater union among the Romanists of England and Ireland in order to secure political advantages. The present Popish brigade is to be doubled or trebled at the next election, and its members are to be nominees of the Cardinal, acting for the Pope. Simultaneously with the Cardinal's visit, a statement has been issued at a Synod in Tuam condemnatory of the system of mixed education in Ireland, and demanding a sectarian system. The proposal for having intermediate classical schools connecting the national schools with the Queen's Colleges, is strongly reprobated as endangering the middle classes. No candidate for the priesthood would, it is said, be allowed to attend such schools. Extraordinary efforts are at present being made to place the "Catholic" University in Dublin on a better footing, and to provide, through it, evening classes for tradesmen and mechanics, to draw them away from Mechanics' Institutions and similar mixed gatherings. An attempt will, undoubtedly, be soon made to obtain a charter for this college. On the whole, the Romanist hierarchy in Ireland are determined to make a stand for entire control of all educational machinery among their own people and this with a view both to political and religious ends. We hope that our Protestant statesmen will be on the alert to prevent such a result.

AGITATION FOR REFORM IN THE CHURCH OF ROME.—The most important intelligence from the Continent is the memorial of 500 bishops and clergy, chiefly in Bohemia, to the Archbishop of Vienna, for a thorough reform of many of the abuses of the Church of Rome. They complain, that for the want of necessary reforms, they are fast losing their hold upon the people. Among other things, they urge the permission of marriage to the clergy.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND PROGRESS.—The present intolerant laws in SWEDEN may be said to be practically abolished. The agitation abroad has chiefly accomplished this. It is not yet known whether any new laws, or what laws, will be established in their stead. The old conventicle law, prohibiting private prayer-meetings, is also in abeyance. In RUSSIA, greater liberty in educational matters has been recently, among the other liberal concessions of Alexander II., granted to the Jews. In TURKEY, we have most cheering intelligence of the progress of the Armenian missions in the district of Nicomedia, and also of the accessibility of the Bulgarian population to scriptural instruction. Political affairs in Turkey remain in a very complicated state. Some fears are entertained even in Constantinople of a Mohammedan rising. The mission among the Jews