

fore the House of Commons, their chief objection to it being that it severs the connection between the Parish church and the Parish school, the latter being freed from ecclesiastical trammels.—An effort is being made to abolish, or at least largely to modify, Church Patronage. The movement is intended to popularize the Establishment, and to do away with "Lord Aberdeen's Act." It is not likely to prove successful.—The "Queens-ferry Settlement" has now become matter of notoriety. A Mr. Thomson was presented to the Parish, but the parishioners objected with great unanimity. The Presbytery sustained the objections of the people, but Mr. Thomson is to carry the case to the Assembly, and, if necessary, to the House of Lords.

ENGLAND.

In England the Privy Council decided that certain ritualistic garments and attitudes were illegal. The decision was hailed with delight by the Evangelicals, and with alarm, indignation and contumely by the High Church party. Some seven thousand clergymen have signed petitions against the judgment. Mr. Purchas petitioned for a re-hearing of the case, but this the Privy Council refused.—A motion was lately made in the House of Commons by Mr. Miall in favour of dis-establishing the English and Scottish Churches; but he was defeated by a vast majority.—Would not the Non-Conformists of a century ago rejoice to learn that the University Tests have been repealed, and that Oxford and Cambridge are free to all?

Mr. Voysey, who was recently compelled to leave the ministry of the English Church after preaching in that Church twenty-five years, is now lecturing in Scotland and England, and announces that he will open a church in London on his own account. He is a Pantheist, and has been a Pantheist for more than twenty years. He declares that there are hundreds still in the ministry of the English Church who hold views like his own. "Ritualism" is advancing in England, and Ritualism is but incipient Popery.

The recent "May Meetings" show that a great and good work is being done by

British Christians. The sum of £179,548 was raised last year in connection with the British and Foreign Bible Society; and the issues of the Society during the year amounted to 3,903,067 Bibles or parts of Bibles. The total issues now amount to 63,299,738; while the issues of other Societies amount to about 45,000,000. The Anniversaries generally, so far as we have yet seen, present a favourable aspect of the year's operations.

The Presbyterian Church of England has held its annual Synod. It was a harmonious and spirited meeting. Much has been done to extend the bounds of the Church—to remove debts—to help weak charges—to send missionaries to the heathen. This branch of the Church has been blessed with the services of eminent men for many years past.

IRELAND.

Looking at Ireland, a Presbyterian cannot help a feeling of gratitude and great satisfaction at the position reached by the Irish Presbyterian Church. The "Regium Donum" was taken away more than a year ago; but the result is that the ministers are better paid than ever! The sum of £25,000 has been raised as a Sustentation Fund. The Church shows remarkable unity, zeal, devotedness, and a determination to do her duty.—The Episcopal Church in Ireland is also finding out that she can survive her dis-establishment. She is taking up a position decidedly more evangelical and Protestant than that of the English Church.

THE SOUTH OF EUROPE.

Passing over to the Continent, we note most satisfactory signs of an evangelical awakening in Spain, Italy and Austria. Not since the dawn of the Reformation were there such hopeful movements in the South of Europe, among the Latin races. The Gospel is now freely preached in Rome itself! Gavazzi preaches and lectures daily to large and ever-increasing audiences, within sight, almost within ear-shot, of the Papal Palace. The Free Church of Scotland has several flourishing missions in Italy. The Waldenses are also at work. But the most important signs of the times