

DR. ROBERT BUCHANAN ON PRESBYTERIAN UNION.—At a recent meeting of the Free Presbytery of Glasgow, in course of a conversation on the state of Presbyterianism in Australia, the following remarks were made by Dr. R. Buchanan, and are deserving of attention, as coming from one of the wisest and most influential men in the Free Church of Scotland.—"He thought it of the greatest consequence that all the three Presbyterian bodies in Australia,—Established, Free, and United Presbyterian,—should unite and be hoped there would be no difficulties in the way of such a union but what prudence and patience would overcome. As regards Scotland, he was not so hopeful of union, at least with the Established Church. He believed that not a few, both in higher and inferior positions in the Established Church and out of it, if they could have foreseen the results of the policy which led to the Disruption, would have been the last in the world to have countenanced that policy. The Established Church,—as recent events had the more clearly shown,—must come up to our principles, we cannot by possibility go back to theirs. As regards the United Presbyterian Church, I confess I live in the hope of union coming about with them—(hear, hear)—but I do not see that I should say more than that at present."

BAPTIST CONTROVERSY IN FRANCE.—The Protestants of France, both of the National Church and the Free Church, appear to be drifting into controversy among themselves on the subject of infant baptism. In the National or Established Church, the Consistory of Nantes has demanded the removal of M. Robineau, one of the pastors, on account of his Baptist views. M. Robineau and his friends resist, and a "sharp polemic" has ensued. The French Protestant Churches are the more exposed to such annoyance as this, from having failed to teach a positive doctrine on the Sacrament of Baptism. *Latitude* on this subject is always turned to advantage by zealous Baptists; and we may add, that this is not without exemplification in French Canadian Protestantism too.

LITERARY.

HAGENBACH'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THEOLOGY.—The fifth edition of this work has been published at Leipzig, and is favorably noticed in the British Reviews. It is intended as a Manual for the Divine, and the student—mapping out the domain of Theology, and defining the relations and succession of its different departments. The natural order of study is given thus:—1. Exegetical Theology; 2. Church History; 3. Systematic Theology, and 4. Practical Theology. A list of classified works (chiefly German) is given, bearing on each department. The German does not imitate the British Divines, in placing apologetics at the threshold of the course of study, but assigns to that branch only a subordinate position as an outpost of systematic Theology. Those who are acquainted with Dr. Hagenbach's great work on the "History of Doctrines" will scarcely need to be told, that his writings, while exceedingly useful to intelligent readers, must be perused with guarded caution on many points of vital evangelical truth.

SMITH'S TABULAR HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.—In a folio volume of about eighty pages, Professor H. B. Smith, of the University of New York, has just issued a History of the Christian Church in tabular form, which will form a valuable Book of Reference. There are fifteen successive tables. Each table contains twelve synchronistic columns. The work differs from ordinary chronological tables, in furnishing a scientific digest of the materials by a thoroughly competent hand, rather than a mere collection of facts and dates.

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—The great Catalogue of this Library, now in progress, has advanced to the end of letter H. At the present rate (says the Athenæum) we may hope in ten years to see the completion of the catalogue, in two thousand folio volumes! The letter G alone has occupied 88 volumes folio.

NORTH BRITISH REVIEW.—The last number of this valuable Quarterly contains an important article on Biblical Interpretation in a review of recent Commentaries on the Epistles to the Corinthians. The writer points out the insufficiency of the "exclusively critical and grammatical" mode of commentary, which has found its best modern English authority in Mr. Ellicott. He also exposes the abuse of the "historical mode" by Canon Stanley, and issues a stern warning against the teachings of that very attractive writer.

THE MARRIAGE QUESTION.—An able and sound statement of the Bible Law of Marriage, pointing out the prohibited degrees, and showing the relation of sister-in-law to be one of them, has appeared in a Letter to Lord Bury, M.P., by Professor Douglas of the Free Church College, Glasgow.