

**ITALY.**—The Waldensian Church and the Free Church of Italy are in a fair way of becoming one. Already they are the same in heart, in creed, in aim. Both alike acknowledge the supreme authority of the Word of God; both are brave champions for freedom against the fearful tyranny of the Church of Rome, and both are filled with evangelical zeal. The Waldensian Church, which kept God's Truth so purely, and stood for ages the test of the most bitter and un pitying persecutions, has special claims on Italy. All her agents are now lighting anew the torches which centuries ago were quenched in blood. The Free Church of Italy has laboured with remarkable zeal and with much success in places where the Waldensians had no foothold. But it was felt on all hands as a source of weakness, and a cause of reproach, that churches so near of kin should be separate. Over a year ago resolutions looking in the direction of union were passed. Committees have met and reported, and every step taken has been remarkably successful. If no unforeseen barrier should appear, a union will probably be accomplished during the current year. A most interesting union it will be, of the old and of the new—of the most conservative church in Europe with one of the most liberal. The Free Church is formed almost entirely from Romanism, and her congregations now extend from Genoa to Venice, from Leghorn to Bologna, from Naples to Bari. Signor Gavazzi is the great leader, her most eminent man. A feeling in favour of union is extending, not a day too soon, among all the Protestant labourers in Italy.

**MEXICO.**—Rev. J. W. Butler, of Mexico says:—There are now 264 evangelical congregations in Mexico, with 30,000 permanent adherents. Men and women who never saw a Bible till they had spent half their money and half their lives in the Roman Catholic Church were now becoming the Christians who would go through fire and water for their religion's sake. Recently, fifteen of them had been imprisoned and persecuted, but not one recanted. One congregation of 125 members, none of whom earned over 30 cents a day, have lately raised \$60 for the erection of a church. They were so generous in religious matters that they had to be restrained, or they would give away their very food and clothes.

**REVISION.**—The revision of the English version of the Old Testament, after fourteen years of labour, is now completed, and will be published next spring by the University Presses of Oxford and Cambridge in several editions. The American Committee have ordered a memorial edition in four magnificent volumes, of the best paper and binding, to be inscribed in gilt letters and sent free to any one who contributes thirty dollars to the expenses of the committee. Orders with the money enclosed must be sent before Dec. 31, 1884, to the Treasurer, Mr. Andrew L. Taylor, No. 6, Bible House, New York.

**TEMPERANCE NOTES.**—Newfoundland is alive to the temperance movement. "Local Option" has been adopted at the Bay of Islands, "without dissent," St. John itself has been the scene of a

lively demonstration against the liquor traffic, two splendid meetings having been held to discuss the question, and committees appointed to organize the campaign. The enrolled number of total abstainers is now 814. The Scott Act has met with a repulse in the county of Compton, Quebec.

About the worst thing that can be done with a man is to put whiskey into him as a beverage. The late Dr. Guthrie, of Scotland, was right when he said: "Whiskey is good in its place. There is nothing like whiskey in this world for preserving a man when he is dead. But it is one of the worst things in the world for preserving a man when he is living. If you want to keep a dead man, put him in whiskey; if you want to kill a living man, put whiskey into him."

## Anniversary Meetings.

**MISSIONARY MEETINGS** were held in Erskine Church, Montreal, on the 25th, 26th, and 27th November, the respective evenings being devoted to the consideration of Home Missions, French Evangelization, and Foreign Missions. The meetings were largely attended and the speaking was remarkably good. We shall confine ourselves to a brief outline of the proceedings.

### HOME MISSIONS.

Rev. A. B. MACKAY presided and in his opening address stated that the object of these meetings was to call attention to the three branches of the missionary work of the Presbyterian Church in Canada above named. One term properly described the purpose of each—"Evangelization." Our Home Missions were for the evangelization of Presbyterians in our own country; our French work, for the evangelization of our fellow-citizens speaking the French language, and our Foreign missions for the evangelization of those who lived in heathen countries. It might be accepted as an axiom that just in proportion as we did our duty faithfully by our own people, through the ministry of the Word in our several congregations, we might reasonably expect to succeed in the other branches.

Rev. D. J. MACDONNELL of Toronto next addressed the meeting. Owing to a change in the departure of the train, he found that he must leave in a few minutes. This announcement was very disappointing to the audience, but there was no help for it, and the speaker made the best use he could