

## The Evangelical Alliance.

The Nineteenth Conference of the Evangelical alliance has been held at Hull. Among those who took an active share in its business may be mentioned the Hon. J. W. Van Loon, of Amsterdam, Supreme Judge of Holland; Rev. Dr. Bliss, of the United States, President of the Protestant College at Beyrout; Pasteur Revel, President of the Waldensian College, Florence; Pasteur Casalis, of Paris, and Pastor Beskow, of Stockholm. Some interesting information was communicated regarding the progress of the Gospel in Continental countries. M. Revel remarked that Italy formed at present one of the most favorable fields in the world for Evangelistic labours. At Brescia, for example, on the very borders of Austria, the ground had been broken by a colporteur, three years ago, selling a number of Bibles, and now there were sixty-five communicants. Similar results had taken place at Milan, Como, Turin, Alexandria, Genoa, Civita Vecchia, Lucca, Elba, Florence, and Naples. At Florence they were printing an edition of the "Pilgrim's Progress" of 10,000 copies, and a great number of other books of religious instruction. Pastor Beskow, of Stockholm, observed that a great revival was going on in Sweden, which might be said to have begun almost with the century. For himself, he had to preach every day. At first the people had been forbidden to hold prayer meetings, but they would not give them up, and by-and-by the restriction was removed. The Hon. J. W. Van Loon gave a somewhat dark account of the state of religion in Holland, but expressed the hope that the Alliance, by holding its next annual conference at Amsterdam, would help to promote the spiritual good of the country. Dr. Bliss, in speaking of the religious condition of Syria, referred to the importance of the recent translation of the Bible into Arabic, and to the purpose of the college with which he was connected, which was to train native ministers for the East. Among the most prominent of the miscellaneous papers read was one by the Rev. Dr. McCosh, Professor in Queen's College, Belfast, on the characteristics of the Broad Church and the Narrow Church in all denominations.—*Sunday Magazine*.

## Rome.

The year 1866 has been long looked forward to by interpreters of prophecy as one that would mark an important epoch in the downfall of the Papacy. When the Emperor of the French fixed on that year as the time when he would withdraw his troops from Rome, the expectation that some decisive change would take place then was greatly quickened. It appears, however, that the Pope and his advisers are bent on signaling

the year in a different manner. The 29th June, 1866, according to tradition, will be the 1800th anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Peter, and the Pope it is rumored will celebrate the event by convoking all the catholic bishops of the church at Rome. It is plain that there is no lack of courage of a kind in the proceedings of the Vatican, for in addition to the Encyclical that lately astonished the world, denouncing all progress and innovations in church and state, an allocution has just been delivered which is levelled at Freemason brotherhoods and all secret societies. No one can tell what the next eighteen months will bring round in the history of Italy and the Papacy. It is, however, gratifying to find both that the civil government of the country gets more consolidated, and that the streaks of evangelical light are shooting here and there over the firmament.—*Id.*

## Madagascar.

Mr. Consul Packenham, of Madagascar, has published a report to Government, in the course of which he gives a favorable view of the state of the native Christians in the capital of the island. Five thousand profess Christianity in Antananarivo, of whom the greater portion are Protestants; and should the present Hova Government continue tolerant, there is every prospect of Christianity spreading. Education is making progress among all classes. Besides a large school opened by the Queen for the instruction of the officers of her household, and confided to a native teacher, there are at the capital seven schools belonging to the English Protestant, and three to the French Roman Catholic, missionaries, all well attended.

"The members of the present Hova Government, with one or two exceptions, belong to the old heathen Conservative party, are opposed to an extended intercourse with Europeans, and to the spread of Christianity in Madagascar. If left to the bent of their natural inclinations, they would gladly revert to the old system in force during the reign of Queen Ranavalona. The fear of complications with the British and French Governments alone prevents their doing so. The limited views of the majority embrace the present only, without concern for the future; and to secure that present, as regards their own position and influence, is their aim and ambition. The regenerating effects of civilization, and the progressive moral advancement attending the spread of Christianity, are consequently not only feared, but sought to be resisted by means of a restrictive policy. Under existing circumstances, therefore, we can scarcely look for the development of the resources of Madagascar, for administrative reforms, improvement in the social condition