

and house might be entirely refunded." These churches might be constructed of corrugated galvanized iron, or of wood, and made capable of accommodating from two to three hundred persons; while the dwelling-houses should have, at least, each four rooms. With these appliances, beyond the matter of fifty, or a hundred pounds to meet immediate expenses on landing, nothing more would be needed."

It must be acknowledged that these statements do not, according to the condition of the colony in January last, afford much encouragement to us to send out missionaries. Still, matters there undergo very rapid changes. Things which, in the old state of society, it took years to accomplish, are there effected in a few weeks; and it is anticipated, that when the excitement shall have subsided; when the town of Melbourne shall be provided with water and sewerage, and a larger number of houses; and when families shall settle down for the cultivation of the land in the vicinity of the gold fields, great facilities will be enjoyed for the preaching of the gospel and the formation of Christian churches. "Steps towards this state of things," the document from which we have quoted says, "are now being taken by government, and it would be well at once to commence evangelical operations amongst the little communities that must shortly be formed in those regions."

The committee have, therefore, recently again written to the Synod there, asking to be fully informed with reference to the present condition, wants, and prospects of the colony. And, in the meanwhile, they beg to state:—

"1st. That they regret that they have not yet received any applications for Australia. A few inquiries were made in the early part of the summer, but since the publication of the letter from the Synod of Victoria, in the August 'Record,' not one inquiry nor an offer has been presented.

"2nd. That they are prepared to receive applications according to the rules stated in the first part of this paper; and they earnestly request ministers and preachers, in compliance with the recommendation of the Synod, to take the claims of Australia into serious consideration. And

"3d. That they invite those members of the church who take an interest in this mission, and who have the means of doing so, to aid in providing churches and houses for those who may offer their services."

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## Ecclesiastical Notices.

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### O B I T U A R Y .

Probably few of our readers will need to be informed that Scotland and England have, in rapid succession, been deprived, by death, of two of their most distinguished ministers—both of them Congregationalists—the Rev. Ralph Wardlaw, D.D., Glasgow, and the Rev. William Jay, Bath. In addition to the references made to Dr. Wardlaw, in another part of the Magazine, it may be mentioned, that he was born at Dalkeith, near Edinburgh, on the 22nd of December, 1779; entered on the office of the ministry, in Glasgow, in 1803; and has almost ever since held a prominent and an honourable place in public estimation, both as a preacher