devoted regularly, morning and evening to this purpose, could not be more profitably employed. For the present we take leave of the subject in the words of the committee, — " Is it not a part of pastoral work to enquire if there be a family altar or not? Should not every minister know this?"

The Spanish Armada.

THE fifth of November having been suggested as a suitable time for commemorating the Great Revolution of 1688, the following notice of the "Invincible Armada", published in the *Presbyterian Journal*, Phila., will be read with interest.—

The Armada, commanded by the Duke of Medina-Sidonia, started from Lisbon May 19th, 1588. But God fought it at the outset. A gale in the Bay of Biscay scattered its vessels and drove them into Ferrol, and it was not until July 19th that they entered the English channel off Cornwall. An English fleet under Howard, Drake and Hawkins was in the Channel waiting to molest it, and all England was alive with troops to receive the army which it purposed to land.

The English fleet had only 80 vessels; the Spanish had 132, (besides caravels) carrying 3165 cannons, 8766 seamen, 2088 galley slaves, and 21,855 soldiers, 1355 volunteers (noblemen, gentlemen, and their attendants) and 150 monks, with the Vicar of the Inquisition; and the disproportion in the size and strength of the vessels of the two was greater than was that of the number. The English were nearly all very small; some of the Spanish were for that day enormous.

A running fight was kept up between the two fleets, from the 21st to the 27th of July, till on Sunday, the 28th, the Armada dropped anchor in the Calais roads. That night the English Admiral, Howard, sent eight fire ships down the tide upon the Spanish line. That produced a panic. The galleons cut their cables, and stood out to sea, drifting with the wind in a long line off Gravelines.

On the 29th, the English fleet closed in upon them for a final struggle which lasted all day. Three of the galleons were sunk, three drifted helplessly on to the Flemish coast, and the crews of those that remained were demoralised. Huddled together by the wind and deadly English fire, their sails torn, their masts shot away, they had become mere slaughter houses. A retreat for Spain, round the Orkneys was ordered. No sooner had they reached the Orkneys than the storms of the Northern seas broke on them with fury, and followed them through August and September. In October fifty reached Spain, bearing ten thousand men stricken with pestilence and death. Of the rest, some were sunk, some dashed to pieces against the Irish cliffs. Eight thousand perished between the Giant's Causeway and the Blaskets. On a strand near Sligo, an English Captain numbered eleven hundred corpses which had been cast up by the sea.

The great enterprise, designed for the destruction of Protestantism, for which months had been spent in preparation, was met and thwarted by God himself. On the English medal that commemorated it, were graven the words: "The Lord sent his wind and scattered them." The importance of the defeat cannot be over-estimated. It was the turning point in modern history. The prestige of Spain was forever broken, her naval supremacy was destroyed,' her wide empire began to disintegrate. England advanced to the front as the great maritime power. She became Protestant at heart. Protestantism itself was saved. The whole Protestant and Republican world, should unite with thanksgiving to God.

These dates are inseparably linked together: 1588—1688—1788—1888.

Missionary Cabinet.

MRS. MARIA REGINA CHRISTINA GOBAT.

THERE was a time, not very long ago, when the names of Bishop Gobat and Mrs. Gobat of Jerusalem were known as household words all over Christendom. These eminent missionaries were universally esteemed, not only for their works' sake, which prospered in their hands, but also for their conspicuous hospitality to Christians of all denominations who visited the Holy Land. In both these respects Mrs. Gobat was equally distinguished with her husband. She was born at Zofingen, Switzerland, on