

of an abstract and unpractical character has ceased in the eyes of the Germans themselves to attach to their Christian theology and Christian life, and is only received by foreigners as applicable to a state of things which exists no more. Nothing has been listened to with greater interest than Christian statistics and missionary reports; and indeed some of the speakers found it necessary to utter words of caution and warning against the opposite extreme of neglecting Christian science, and surrendering the distinctive character of German theology as fortified by learning and philosophical culture."

INDIA.—We have nothing new from the Mission field of India. Dr. Duff continues by his letters to the Edinburgh Witness to enliven the events of the Indian mutiny by his graphic pen. The allegations of Lord Ellenborough, that disaffection among the Hindoos was caused by the Missionaries, or by Lord Canning contributing to a Missionary Society, have been amply refuted by the most distinguished Hindoo native gentlemen. A valuable testimony has also been borne by these same parties to the esteem in which the Missionaries are universally held for their self-denying labours on behalf of the public welfare. We may, therefore, hope that we have heard the last of this infidel outcry, that the Missions in India have been in any sense the cause of this most disastrous mutiny. Most of the Missionaries who have been laboring in North-West India, beyond the limits of Calcutta, have been driven from their posts, and many of them, seeing the impossibility of resuming their work for some time to come, are returning to Europe and America. Prayer meetings of a most interesting character, in which several of the Protestant Ministers and their Congregations united, have been held in Montreal and in London, C. W., on behalf of India. In Montreal the meetings have been most successful and refreshing, and collections were made on each occasion for the sufferers by the revolt. The last mail brings us intelligence from England of the religious services throughout the country on the occasion of the National Fast, which by Royal proclamation was appointed to be held on the 7th Oct. The most notable incident on that day was the preaching of Mr. Spurgeon, in the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, to an audience of 20,000 persons. The collection amounted to £400, to which the Directors of the Palace added £200. Altogether, the sermons preached by all denominations were of the most faithful kind, and took a just and magnanimous view of the sins of the nation and the retributive judgment of God.

The Rev. George Stevenson, Missionary of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, at Bancoorah, having been driven from his Station, has resolved to return to Scotland. He has been influenced by the conviction that the country will not be in a state to admit of the mission being opened for at least two years, and by a conscientious scruple in regard to his living for so long a time at Calcutta learning the Bengal language, at the expense of a missionary fund. Dr. Duff and M. Lacroix, of Calcutta, have concurred in the propriety of the step Mr. Stevenson has taken. Dr. Duff writes as follows:—"I do fondly trust, that the faith of the Canadian Church will rise buoyant over the disappointment. If Mr. Stevenson had been wrecked on his way out, as some Missionaries have been; or if, after being a few weeks or months in the field, he had been driven from it by deadly disease, as others have been; in these or any similar cases, I am sure the faith of the Canadian Church would only be burnished all the brighter by the manifestly providential trial, and rising up purer and stronger than ever, would prompt to more prayer, augmented liberality, deeper humility, and redoubled energy and effort. And now, when by an utterly unexpected calamity, Mr. Stevenson has been driven from the chosen sphere of his labour, I cannot but confidently hope, that the Church will perceive in this only a new though severe trial of her faith,—that she will not be depressed or dispirited by the event, but only see in it a new call from her Great Head to come forth more bountiously and energetically than ever, to the help of the Lord;—to the help of the Lord against the mighty in this land."

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The great Funds of this Church appear to be in a healthy and prosperous state. The Sustentation Fund presents, at the end of four months an increase of £876 4s. over last year. The Foreign Mission Fund also shows an increase of £602 19s. 1d.

OPEN AIR PREACHING AT BELFAST.—This town has been greatly disturbed by the rising of a Popish mob to suppress by violence the preaching of the gospel in the open air. At the request of the civil authorities, the Presbytery of Belfast, and the Episcopal Clergy there have discontinued the practice of out-door preaching. A licentiate of the Presbyterian Church, Mr. R. Hanna, persisted, but the Magistrates interfered by order of the Lord Lieutenant. The question is a very serious one, and the conduct of the Presbytery, in waving their rights to free speech on religious subjects in the open air, when a thoroughfare is not obstructed, has been keenly criticised. The immediate effect, without doubt, is to give a triumph to the Priests. ✕