

Barnes, Esq. From the Report we learn "That there are now more than 160 Congregational ministers faithfully preaching the Gospel of Christ in Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Vancouver's Island, in British America; in the Cape of Good Hope, and Port Natal, in South Africa; in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand, in Australasia. The greater part of these brethren were introduced to their work by the instrumentality of this Society, having been sent direct from Britain, or trained for the ministry in the Colonies."

With reference to Vancouver's Island and the "Negro Pew" difficulty, the Committee say: "No restriction is placed on the colored races, but all are permitted to occupy any places they may find vacant during public worship. It is with sincere pleasure the Committee are able to state that the cause is progressing most satisfactorily in the city of Victoria, encouraging the hope that, as population increases, the congregation will continue to advance, and that the time is not far distant when a flourishing self-sustained Independent Church will be permanently established."

The income for the year amounts to £6,703 12s. 1d., and the expenditure to £6,268 3s. 11d. Dr. Patton, of New York, and Dr. Tomkins, of Nova Scotia, were among the speakers, as also the Rev. F. Binney, who occupies to a great extent the position of father to the Colonial Missionary Society.

Most of our readers will know that the bill for the abolition of Church Rates was lost on the motion for third reading in the House of Commons by the casting vote of the Speaker. The diminished majority on the second reading had induced some fear as to the result, and although there was disappointment it was not so great as under other circumstances might have been felt. Of course this is a defeat, and our friends at home acknowledge it as such; but there are considerations which lessen the regret, and strengthen the confidence of future success. There is great reason to suppose that to a considerable extent it was just the result of a political move on the part of certain members who had an object to gain, and thought that this would help them to it;—of all the members in the house the Irish are the least reliable. Further, there is no more probability that it would have passed the Lords this session than last, and there is, therefore, actually no time lost; and we suppose that a general election is not far distant, when there is every appearance of this being made a test question, and no one receiving liberal votes who will not pledge himself to vote for the total and unconditional abolition of Church Rates. That this check will not damp the ardour of the men who are engaged in the work we may be sure from past experience of their indomitable perseverance: we are as confident as if the bill was already passed, that the days of this obnoxious impost are numbered, and are very few.

---

A report was current lately in England that the Pope was dead. This proved to be untrue; but there is no doubt that the Pontiff is in a very precarious state, and may any day pass away into the eternal world. There is every indication that Pius IX. will be the last of the Popes who will exercise temporal power, and that his successor will, *nolens volens*, be alone a spiritual prince. It is said that Napoleon and Baron Ricasoli—the successor of Cavour—are quite prepared for this, and have determined, conjointly, to declare the secular dominion of the Pope at an end. Such a course would