

we have enough real pains and troubles in this life, without tormenting ourselves with imaginary ones.—*Good Words.*

Scriptural Proverbs Compared with Others.

Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird; Prov. i. 17.

To fright a bird is not the way to catch her.

The hand of the diligent maketh rich; Prov. x. 4.

Diligence is the mother of good luck.

I said of laughter, It is mad; Eccl. ii. 2.

Laughter is the hiccup of a fool.

Two are better than one; Eccl. iv. 9.

Union is strength.

One sinner destroyeth much good; Eccl. ix. 18.

One fool makes many.

For three things the earth is disquieted, . . . for a servant when he reigneth; Prov. xxx. 21, 22.

Set a beggar on horseback, and he will ride to the devil.

The way of transgressors is hard; Prov. xiii. 15.

The devil's meal is all bran. The libertine's life is not a life of liberty. The devil drives his pig to a bad market.

A fool uttereth all his mind; Prov. xxix. 11.

A fool's bolt is soon shot.

There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother; Prov. xviii. 25.

Friends are the nearest relations.

Review of the Past Month.

If we look abroad upon the world we cannot avoid coming to the conclusion that during no previous portion of its history was the progress and life of Christianity in a mere healthy state. The unchristian bitterness which was wont too largely to distinguish Christian denominations is softening, while the zeal and vigor with which gospel truth is being pushed to the remotest corners of the earth are greater than they ever were. There is a union of spirit and purpose among the great bodies of Christians, which is rapidly becoming a weapon too powerful for even spiritual darkness to contend against. There are now more than a thousand Protestant ministers in France. In Italy the popery of the Pope is propped by French bayonets and maintains a precarious existence even thus. Toleration has become a law in Austria. The sovereign of Prussia is one of the Bible's

most earnest friends. The persecution which disgraced Sweden has been put out of countenance by public opinion. The Word of God is about to become the common property of the vast Russian empire. Evangelization is meeting rationalism on its own ground in Germany and Switzerland and more than holding its own. Every Protestant church in Christendom is becoming more and more missionary in its spirit and aims. The Church of England once so dead, is now nobly working in the van, planting the gospel standard in the most distant and barbarous lands. The Methodists are sending out missionaries by the hundred, and the other denominational brethren are not far behind them. Indeed all are awakening to the sense of a great responsibility, and the latter half of the nineteenth century will witness we doubt not, the strongholds of Satan shaken to their centre.

Perhaps at no previous time was the Church of Scotland in so vigorous a state at home as she now is. New churches are being planted and endowed in every part of the country. Her clergy are faithful, earnest and able, and she is every day becoming in the best sense of the term, in a greater and greater degree the Church of the people. We trust that nothing will happen to mar this rapidly increasing affection. She is now pursuing the quiet and even tenor of her way, with little to disturb her onward course. There are two cases, however, which at the present moment are producing some feeling in the Church, that of Mr. Gebbie, a minister who appears to have been carried away literally into madness by what is called revivalism, and to have given utterance to extravagances and blasphemies beyond belief. His case has been before the Presbytery of Irvine for a considerable time, and the evidence has brought to light facts of a strange and almost incredible nature. Mr. Gebbie's case will go to the Assembly, and the only possible issue we should think, must be his deposition.

The other case is the settlement of South Leith, said to be the richest living in Scotland. The Government have presented Mr. Phin, an able and clear-headed, but rather pugnacious man. Only 64 signed his call, while more than 1100 objected to him. The matter is now in the hands of the Church Courts, and it may be some time before it is decided. Popular election no doubt has its difficulties and drawbacks as our dissenting brethren well know, but it is a privilege which Presbyterians have always most tenaciously asserted, and we believe that the end will be that it will, ere a great many years, be an accomplished fact in the Church of Scotland. Mr. Phin may be an excellent, as he certainly is a talented man, and it is very likely that the people, if left to themselves, will choose some one his inferior intellectually, still we think it would be a pity and a crime to thrust an unacceptable man—even a good