

still actively going on. The Report read to the Synod says, "We have continued to enjoy a full and entire liberty for the accomplishment of our work. Whilst throughout other parts of the Continent the efforts of the friends of the gospel have been traversed by legal restrictions laid on the liberty of worship, by the unfriendly disposition of the Government officials, or by the opposition of the people themselves, we have not had, thanks be to God, to contend against difficulties of that kind. We have been able to meet, to celebrate our worship, to circulate Bibles and religious tracts, and to issue our publications, without experiencing the least opposition. We can say in all truth that a great door is open to the gospel in Belgium, both by the civil liberty which we enjoy, and by the access that is found to the population generally." This open door for preaching and other evangelistic work in Belgium is matter of great thankfulness: the Belgian Protestants are not neglecting it. Last year they opened two new stations in two of the principal cities of Belgium, and their circulation of tracts was quintupled. One of their pastors, M. Durand, has translated the Shorter Catechism with proofs, and has thus furnished his infant church with that admirable manual which has done so much good in Scotland.

#### Late Rev Dr. Stevenson.

I am sorry to have to record the death of the Rev. Dr. John Stevenson, clergyman of the parish of Ladykirk in Berwickshire, and till lately one of our chaplains in India. An unhappy accident led to the fatal termination of his life. He was riding on horseback, we are informed, to induct a clergyman in the neighbouring parish of Hutton, when he was seized with a giddiness in the head and fell from his horse. Thus prematurely, and while in the discharge of his duty, did he meet with his end; and his remains were followed to the grave by a large and influential company of mourners. It is with more than wonted sorrow that we supply these details. Only a few years ago did Dr. Stevenson return from India, where he had laboured, if we mistake not, since 1824; so that only a short space was allotted him to enjoy that rural quietude which doubtless he had long coveted under the blazing sun of Hindostan. Shortly after his return I had an opportunity of hearing an interesting address from him, before the Edinburgh University Missionary Association, upon the land where he had lived so long; and it was affecting to hear one say, who was evidently exhausted and worn out with his pious labours, that he had "spent in the Missionary cause the best days of his life." He is gone; and we say, Amen. Enough of time was given him at Home to show the worth of the man; and, while his hands are forever folded in calm repose,

may other labourers go forth to the bloody plains of poor India, and reap in happier times the harvest which he and such as he have helped to sow.—*Correspondent of the Presbyterian.*

#### A Pleasing Incident.

A correspondent of the *Dundee Advertiser*, who has been making a tour in the Highlands, states, that when in the neighbourhood of Balmoral, he entered a thatched hut on the road-side,—one of the most miserable. It consisted of but one apartment, and had no chimney, only an open lum. It was inhabited by an old, lone woman; she sat at the fireside in a rude chair, leaning down to blow up the fire, which stood against the wall. We asked the woman if her Majesty ever came to see her. She answered, "Oh, yes, Sir, she comes to see me often, and she has sat many a time there," pointing to the other side of the fire, "and she is very kind to me always when she comes." That widow's heart was evidently full while thus she spoke. The thought of her Queen having sat down and spoken to her, and sympathized with her in her lonely cottage, and provided for her wants, filled her with gratitude, and was to her a subject of pleasing thought till another visit was paid; and, as we stood on that earthen floor, under that smoked roof, and looked to the spot on which Victoria had sat, we felt that there was true queenly kindness and condescension in what she had done, and that, however high she stood in our esteem before, she was now much more exalted there.

THE UNIVERSITY COMMISSION.—We understand that the University Commissioners have already had several meetings in Edinburgh, chiefly for the purpose of arranging their course of procedure. According to our information, all their sittings will be in Edinburgh, and their inquiries will be conducted rather by documentary than oral communication. The Lord Justice-Clerk has been appointed chairman, and will as such have a deliberative and casting vote.—*Aberdeen Herald.*

THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER REFUSING TO INDUCT A TRACTARIAN.—The Bishop of Winchester has refused to institute the Rev. T. Carter Southey to the Rectory of Niton, Isle of Wight, to which he had been presented by Queen's College, Oxford. The Bishop grounds his refusal on the sermon preached by Mr. Southey at St Paul's, Brighton, on the Holy Eucharist, and for which he was forbidden by the Bishop of Chichester to officiate any longer in his diocese.

PRINCE ALFRED.—Prince Alfred's examination for the naval service lasted during Friday, Saturday, Monday, and the

morning of Tuesday last, and comprised Arithmetic, Algebra, plane Trigonometry, Euclid, Sacred History and History of England, Geography, Latin, French, German, and English dictation. His Royal Highness having been declared to have passed satisfactorily in all these several branches, has been appointed a naval Cadet, and joined H.M.S. *Euryalus* on Tuesday afternoon. After a leave of absence for two months he will rejoin the frigate for permanent service, and will mess and live with the midshipmen on board. Her Majesty has appointed Lieutenant Cowell, R.E., Governor to the Prince, who will accompany him on his voyage.

THE COUNCIL OF INDIA.—All the important interests are now represented in the Council:—Bengal Civil Service, Mr. Prinsep and Mr. Mangles; Madras Civil Service, Sir H. Montgomery; Bombay Civil Service, Mr. Willoughby; Bengal Army, Sir P. Cutley; Madras Army, General Sir R. Vivian; Bombay Army, Captain Eastwick; the Punjab, Sir J. Lawrence; the Affghan Frontier and Persia, Sir H. Rawlinson; Native States, Sir F. Currie; Law, Sir J. Hogg, and Mr. Macnaghten; Shipping Interests, Captain Shepherd; Finance, Mr. Mills; Indian Commerce, Mr. Arbuthnot; Public Works, Sir P. Cautley.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Oxford, who were nominated trustees for the adjudication of a prize of £300, offered by a member of the Civil Service of the East India Company, for the best exposition of the Hindoo systems of philosophy and refutation of their fundamental errors, have decided upon dividing the prize between the two best essayists—viz., the Rev. Joseph Mullens, missionary of the London Missionary Society, and Dr. James R. Ballantine, Principal of the Government College at Benares.

#### LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

##### Confessional in the Church of England.

A case of the practice of the Confessional has just been brought to light in the diocese of Oxford. The case occurred at Boyn hill, Maidenhead. The charges, as laid before the Bishop of Oxford by the Rev. J. Shaw, of Sieke Vicarage, Slough, affect the Rev. Messrs Gresley and West. The latter who is curate to the former, is principally incriminated. Whether Mr. Gresley knew or approved of the conduct of Mr. West, seems uncertain. The curate, having visited a poor woman in her confinement, exhorted her to repentance, and in order to carry out his views interrogated her seriatim as to her sins against each of the commandments in the Decalogue. When he had arrived at the seventh as the allegation runs, his questions were so naked and offensive that the miserable creature submitted to this species of torture was "upset," and was afterwards found by a benevolent lady crying bitterly. Before the curate left her, it