

"GOOD WORDS."—The Presbytery of Strathbogie in connection with the Free Church have agreed to overture the General Assembly with reference to *Good Words*, the circulation of which they consider calculated to do injury. Exception was taken to a number of articles which have of late appeared, especially to "Rhoda and the Whistle," a poem inscribed to Lord Ardmillan—"Soul-Gardening," by Dora Greenwell—an article on "Sisterhoods" by John Ludlow—an article on "The Monks and the Heathen" by Rev. C. Kingsley—and, above all the rest, to "Plain Thoughts on the Christian Sabbath," by Rev. A. W. Thorold.

ITALY.—CIRCULATION OF RELIGIOUS TRACTS.—The Secretary of the London Religious Tract Society, who has lately visited Italy, gives pleasing accounts of the extent to which religious books are circulated there. Depots are established in most of the leading towns. The sales at most of these depots are encouraging. At Florence, the sales from May to July, inclusive, were 43 Bibles, 69 Testaments, and 2,166 religious books. At Naples, the sales were 252 Bibles, 406 Testaments, and 7,307 religious books. These do not represent, however, all the sales, as many books are sold by Colporteurs throughout the country. Several new publications are being prepared for Italy by the Tract Society.

CHURCH BUILDING AMONG THE ENGLISH CONGREGATIONALISTS.—It was stated in a paper read at the autumn meeting of the Congregational Union, that during the last fourteen years 52 chapels had been built in London at an expense of £120,000; that 150 had been built by the English Congregational Building Society in ten years, at a cost of £215,000; and that 300 chapels are in progress, or proposed, as the result of the bicentenary movement, at the expense of £300,000. The number of chapels now held by the Congregationalists in England and Wales is 2 687, giving, with Home Mission chapels and rooms, accommodation for nearly 2,000,000.

SYNOD OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ENGLAND.—The first meeting of the English Provincial Synod of the United Presbyterian Church was held in Liverpool on 12th Oct., and following days. There were deputations from the English Presbyterian Church, and from the Welsh Calvinistic Presbyterians, and the English Congregational Union. The principal topics discussed were church extension in England, and the proposed union of Presbyterian churches. The subject of union called forth the expression of a general feeling strongly in favour of the movement. The chief subject of discussion is the extent of the United Church, whether it should be incorporated with the church in Scotland, or whether there should be an English Presbyterian Church.

THE UNION COMMITTEES.—The Committees of the Free Church and of the United Presbyterian Church are applying themselves diligently to the work before them. They met in the end of October, and were to meet again on the 19th November. The subject of late under consideration was the province of the civil magistrate with relation to religion and the church. The eyes of many are watching with interest the progress of union. Dr. Wilson, writing from Bombay, says:—"We are most earnestly praying in India for the realization of the proposed union of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches, and indeed of all real-hearted Presbyterians in Scotland, England and Ireland. Viewed from the great empire of heathenism, that union seems to be possessed of a ten-fold importance."

CHURCH CONGRESS AT MANCHESTER.—The religious newspapers of Britain have given, at considerable length, the proceedings of a Church Congress held at Manchester. Various subjects were discussed, including seat rents, church architecture, etc., etc. High church and ritualistic views were very freely expressed by many, among whom may be specially mentioned W. Beresford Hope M.P. Some leading members of the Evangelical party took part in the proceedings. Canon Stowell read a paper on "The Supply and Training of Ministers." Mr. Stowell referred to various causes of the scanty supply of candidates for the ministry. His reference to some causes such as the unhappy dis-