

from which these absorbing discoveries have been made, and of the great libraries, at Nineveh and other places, which the Assyrian monarchs formed in the almost imperishable clay tablets. The tablets themselves, which have been discovered, originated as the result of the individual researches of some of the most remarkable kings of that country into the still more ancient literature of Babylonia. Mr. George Smith says:—"The agents of Ashurbanipal sought every where for inscribed tablets, brought them to Nineveh, and copied them there; thus the literary treasures of Babylon, Bersippa, Cutha, Akkad, Ur, Erech, Lassa, Nipur, and other cities, were transferred to the Assyrian capital to enrich the great collection there." The great kings of Assyria then were ardent collectors of all the best literature they could find. Tiglath-Pileser, Sennacherib and others were not merely warriors; they took the greatest interest in such literary treasures as their empire afforded. More than 20,000 fragments of these clay remains are deposited in the British Museum; and for all that we know, there may be thousands, or even millions more yet to be discovered, when a full investigation of the ancient cities of the east shall be made. Every time Mr. Smith has visited Nineveh he has been happy enough to find fragments which belong to other fragments already in the Museum. Great regret will we are sure be universally felt at the announcement we made in the DOMINION CHURCHMAN, a little while ago, that he has been refused permission from the Turkish Government, to make any more excavations at Nineveh for the present.

THE Diocesan Synod of Brechin, met in St. Andrew's Church, Brechin, Dec. 14th, for the purpose of electing a bishop to succeed the late Bishop Forbes. After the celebration of the Holy Communion, the Very Rev. the Dean, having in accordance with the canons, constituted the meeting, and read the mandate from the Primus authorizing the election, proceeded to state the object of the meeting, which was in the name of the Holy Trinity, to elect a Bishop to preside over the Diocese. He wished, however, first of all, to place on record a statement of the sense which the Synod entertains of the loss which the diocese sustained by the death of their reverend diocesan, the late Right Rev. Alexander Penrose Forbes, D.C.L., who for the long period of twenty-eight years had discharged the

duties of that high office in a way which had added lustre to the diocese; and who by his holy life and teaching had infused a spirit of zeal and devotion into the church work which had been felt and acknowledged by the Church at large. He said that "God alone knows, and none else can know, till the day of judgment, what he has done for promoting the salvation of souls; but the results of his administration in the way of new Churches and schools will ever remain monuments of the zeal and industry with which he labored" among them. A resolution was unanimously passed to that effect.

The Dean having asked if any clerical member had a gentleman to propose for the vacant See, the Rev. J. W. Hunter (St. Mary Magdalene's, Dundee,) proposed the Right Rev. Hugh Willoughby Jermyn, D.D., late bishop of Colombo; and said that in proposing him, unanimity prevailed among the clergy. He stated that Bishop Jermyn was a graduate of Cambridge, was for several years incumbent of Forres and dean of Moray and Ross, and was well acquainted with the Church and her position in the country. On leaving Scotland he was appointed Archdeacon of St. Kitt's, West Indies, which office he discharged with remarkable vigor and success. He next held the important English livings of Nettlecombe and Barking in succession, and in 1871 was appointed to the bishopric of Colombo, which after a brief but prudent and effective administration, he was obliged on the ground of ill health reluctantly to resign. He thought Bishop Jermyn's wisdom and tact eminently fitted him for the position to which he had been raised. The Rev Mr. Hatt, Muchalls, as senior incumbent from the north end of the diocese, seconded the nomination, remarking that they had peculiar traditions and feelings, with a history of their own, all which Bishop Jermyn is familiar with, well knowing their strength and their weakness. He has, too, the rare gift of attracting men of all ranks and degrees, and of interesting them in a very high degree in his work, of utilising their various gifts, and inducing each in his station to labor heartily for the Church, and for the great Head of the Church. Mr. H. also thought there was another reason why the choice of Bishop Jermyn would be a suitable one. The Scottish Church, while independent in herself with her own assemblies, canons and customs, has yet a most intimate connection with the great and vigorous Church of England,

and everything which can draw this visible connection closer will be most valuable; and in electing Bishop Jermyn as their bishop, they would be adding another visible link to the chain that rivets the two Churches together. Bishop Jermyn has been consecrated a bishop by the highest authorities of the English Church, has been sent to labour in the colonies of the English Church; and it is only his inability to continue working in a tropical colony that would give them an opportunity of securing him as Bishop. No other clergyman being proposed, the clergy remained in the church, and on the roll being called they all voted for Bishop Jermyn. The lay members then adjourned to the library, when Sir Thomas Gladstone was called to the chair. Provost Muir proposed the election of Bishop Jermyn, which was seconded by Major Innes, and unanimously agreed to. The laity then returned to the Church, and announced the result; when the Dean declared Bishop Jermyn elected. A declaration to that effect was signed by the Dean and by Sir Thomas Gladstone, and the proceedings terminated.

THE statue of Henry Grattan, the Irish orator, has been unveiled in College Green, Dublin. It is a colossal bronze statue on a limestone pedestal. Grattan entered Parliament in 1775, being then in his thirtieth year. He was patronized by the Earl of Claremont, who had an ardent love for the Irish people, and a desire to improve their condition at home, and their reputation abroad. Grattan joined the ranks of the opposition, then led by the celebrated Flood. His high spirit and nervous eloquence were a great gain to the popular party. In 1780, he obtained from the Irish parliament the resolution:—"The King, the Lords and Commons of Ireland are the only power competent to make laws to bind Ireland." His speech on this occasion is considered by some his finest effort. "I will never be satisfied," he said, "so long as the meanest cottager in Ireland has a link of the British chain clanking to his rags. He may be naked; he shall not be in iron." For his success in the popular cause a proposal was made in Parliament to grant him \$500,000, half of which he accepted, and purchased an estate in Wicklow. Subsequently he fought the cause of Irish independence in his anti-union speeches. He lamented over the dead nationality in the pathetic words:—"I sat by her cradle;