

The expedition against China is still under way; but though evidently of a most formidable character, both French and English, attracts comparatively a small portion of public interest.

Monster meetings have been held in many parts of Ireland by the Roman Catholic population, for the purpose of expressing sympathy for the Pope in his present difficulties. Sentiments of a very questionable and foolish character have been expressed at some of these meetings, by high Church dignitaries, which, if they have any effect at all, will be one prejudicial to the cause in which they are so much interested. The Italians, Catholics though they are, seem fully determined to burst the shackles which have so long bound them; their success will be only a matter of time, and ought to command the sympathy of every true Catholic who has himself breathed the air of freedom.

The war between Spain and Morocco has fairly commenced, and so far the advantage is with the former.

Two names of high literary distinction have, during the last month, succumbed to the great Destroyer. Thomas de Quincey and Lord McAulay—both eminent, but the latter perhaps the most eminent, in his department of literature, of the present day. The brilliant essayist, the profound and almost universal scholar, the eloquent orator, the great, but not altogether impartial historian, has been taken from us at the comparatively early age of 59, and before he had finished his *magnum opus*. The whole world of letters will lament the loss of one of her very greatest men. *Nihil erat quod non tetigit, et nihil tetigit quod non ornavit.*

Lord Elgin has been delivering his inaugural speech as Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow—a distinguished man—but of dwarfish stature compared to his great predecessors—Burke, Adam Smith, Macintosh, Brougham, Campbell, Jeffrey, Peel, Derby, McAulay and others: but there were giants in those days, and Lord Elgin, though of respectable dimensions, is not a giant.

The Church of Scotland, like the Free Church, has got its case—the Scoonie case. The Crown has presented the Rev. Mr. Logie, an Orkney minister, and without doubt a man of ability and character, to the above charge; but the great bulk of the parishioners had set their heart on a neighboring clergyman, Mr. Blackwood, and are resolved to have nobody else. In the meantime the Presbytery have decided in favor of Mr. Logie, and the matter will doubtless be carried to the Assembly. The case is a very important one, and presents several features of great interest into which we cannot enter here.

The Cardross Free Church case bids fair to occupy a place in ecclesiastical history, only inferior to the celebrated Auchterarder one. The Free Church has taken high and, in our opinion, most untenable ground, but are not,

for some time at least, likely to recede from it. The issue, however, cannot be doubtful. Nobody wishes to interfere with their church discipline, but in every well ordered community the law must be supreme. No man, or body of men, can be a law unto themselves. The man McMillan may be a very worthy character. We believe he is so, and should have been stripped of his gown some years ago. But worthless as he is or may be, the law is bound to listen to his complaint, and for the purpose of interfering with the jurisdiction of the Free Church, but simply to ascertain whether his alleged wrong comes within their province or not. To contend against such a thing on the plea of spiritual independence is out of all reason, and to vote to it would lead to anarchy and confusion. We fear, however, the Cardross case is only opening, and that we will hear a great deal more of it.

We have to record this month one of the most terrible calamities which ever took place even in the States. At a place called Lawrence, near Boston, an immense factory almost instantaneously fell in, burying 700 or 800 human beings in the ruins. To add to the horror, shortly afterwards, the whole place was one mass of flame, so that some hundreds of our fellow creatures met a death perhaps the most awful the human mind can conceive. How terrible the truth, that in the midst of life we are in death!

During the past month, throughout a large portion of this Continent, a week for daily prayer meetings was set apart by many thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, to pray, more especially for the promotion of the gospel in India. The object is highly holy, and may these many petitions receive speedy and favourable response.

#### NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We beg to thank our attentive correspondent from P. E. I. for his obliging favor. He will observe that his article on the Cardross case has been anticipated by "Our Scottish Correspondent." His hints have been attended to.

The article on the Jewish scheme, with Epstein's letter to superintendent of St. Matthew's Sabbath school, and Excerpt of a Glasgow student's letter, together with several others, have been crowded out literally for want of space. They will appear next month.

#### OBITUARY NOTICE.

At New Glasgow, on Monday the 23rd at 12 o'clock noon, Catherine, the beloved wife of Rev. Allan Pollok, and third daughter of James Fraser, junr., Esq., aged 70 years.