

## ITEMS.

## EUROPE.

In the centre of an aristocratic quarter in the very heart of Paris a hall has been opened for religious worship.

The Russian persecution of the Jews still goes on. The excesses and atrocities surpass belief. The restraining efforts of the Government have been too fragmentary to succeed. The pecuniary loss already apart from the disturbance of labour, the suffering and loss of life, is estimated at not less than £100,000,000.

Pere Hyacinthe says atheism and immorality are increasing in France, and that much of this is due to the impurity of French literature. Four thousand atheists met in Paris on a late Sunday afternoon, and when the name of God was mentioned fearful execrations were uttered. Can a Republic live with immorality and atheism at the base?

Mr. Marlen of Marash, mentions the raising of money by the native Christians for the establishment of a school for the higher education of women and adds—"The gift has no precedent in Turkey. Appearing in a land where thirty years ago hardly a woman, if any, could read, this gift by the people for female education is surely a remarkable sign of the times."

A movement has begun in Rome, having for its object the better observance of the Lord's day. It will be a great gain to the cause of Christ when Sunday is observed as a day of rest and worship in Italy. At present the absence of all special regard for the weekly day of rest is a great mountain damming up the stream of evangelization. Even the municipal offices are open and the clerks employed on Sunday. Perhaps the majority of the people cease from work, or from business, the latter half of Sunday, when they first go for a walk, or sit and drink, and then comes the theatre to crown the day.

## BRITAIN.

The Established Church of Scotland numbers 1,522 congregations containing 515,000 communicants.

The receipts of the London Baptist Missionary Society have fallen off nearly £28,000 the last year.

The revenue derived from a tax on ardent spirits has fallen in Great Britain to the amount of \$12,000,000.

The subject of the preservation of the Sabbath has been earnestly taken up by the ministers and laity, both in England and Scotland.

Rev. John Inglis, for years the associate of Dr. Geddie, has just sent to the printer the manuscript of an *Ancientness* Dictionary.

The Roman Catholic Bishops of England have again formally forbidden Catholic parents to send their sons to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

The revision of the Old Testament is nearly finished. The second revision will take the whole of the present year and the finished work will be published in 1883.

It seems probable that the visit of Mr. Moody and Mr. Sankey to Edinburgh will be commemorated by the erection of an evangelistic hall for the city. A suitable site, within a little distance of the house of John Knox, has been secured.

An Edinburgh writer for the *Nonconformist* says:—"Dr. Robertson Smith has continued to give lectures in Glasgow and Edinburgh; but he has not in either place set the heather on fire. Unless he again comes forth with something new and startling he will, as a Churchman sink, by-and-by out of sight."

About £600,000 have been received as a Thanksgiving Fund by the Presbyterian Church in England. The children of the church had given for missions last year £1,574. There are 57,000 communicants; 275 congregations; church property £1,200,000.

At the late meeting of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland it was reported that the tendency to decline in the roll of membership had been arrested. The number now in full communion was 174,557, whilst the income of the church had increased to £383,730, and the number of active congregations was 551.

Scotland is the richest country in the world. Since the year 1840 it has quintupled in fortune, which is now double that of Ireland.

In 1840 Scotland only possessed £196,000,000, while Ireland had £308,000,000, in 1877 Scotland had increased to £970,000,000 and Ireland only to £438,000,000.

The average for each inhabitant in the three Kingdoms in 1877 was: Scotland £277, England £283, Ireland £83. But still more remarkable is the decrease of crime in Scotland. During those forty years it has fallen of 60 per cent and 16 prisons have been closed for want of occupants.