

tion has been a much more lamentable affair and has been attended with much bloodshed. Sicily is perhaps the worst governed country in Europe, but we have reason to fear that this unhappy rising was prompted by Sardinian agency, from no higher motive than to annex that fine Island to the already powerful kingdom of Sardinia, and thus raise it to a first class power.

Affairs at Rome have not much improved since last month. The Pope's excommunication has had little effect, and indeed has attracted very little attention. How changed from the dark ages of the Church, when no one dared to harbor for an hour, or give even a crust of bread to the excommunicated on pain of present and everlasting death.

In Austria, matters are in a very bad state indeed. Enormous frauds in which some of the very highest personages in the empire are involved, have been brought to light, and the Emperor is punishing with a severity verging on cruelty. Baron Bruck, the great minister of finance, has anticipated dishonor, by committing suicide. Strange, that dishonesty should have such temptations, that to enjoy an ideal and precarious greatness, men will live a life of increasing anxiety, ending generally with a death of shame.

France and Great Britain have made a formal and energetic demand upon Turkey, for compensation to the extent of £125,000 sterling, on account of the massacre at Djedda, and it will doubtless teach a salutary lesson to these intolerant fanatics.

We regret to observe that matters are in a very unsatisfactory state in Japan, so far as commercial relations with foreigners are concerned. Several murders of Europeans have taken place apparently without cause, and the bad feeling seems on the increase. Firmness as well as moderation is required in all dealings with Asiatics and Japanese are no exception.

Great hopes are entertained that the Chinese will listen to reason, and that the parties will not come to blows. The English and French commissioners have both left for the East but do not expect to be obliged to go farther than Suez where they will wait for an answer to their demands. Should these be unfavorable, hostilities will commence at once, for which it is said the Chinese have made extraordinary preparations.

We omitted to mention in its proper place, the death of Dr. Balfour, the father of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, at the advanced age of 83. We will probably have something to say of the labors of this aged minister of Christ in a future number.

#### JUVENILE PRESBYTERIAN.

We are glad to find that the *Juvenile Presbyterian*, a small missionary Record, having the same object in view as the *Child's Paper*,

published by the American Tract Society, found its way to several of our Sabbath schools, and we should be glad to see it not only generally but universally adopted. In the first place it is very neatly got up, its contents are varied and interesting—well calculated to awaken within the young mind, a love of things spiritual, and above all an interest in Christian missions. Its illustrations are very fair, and it is very cheap, 25 copies for £1 each, per annum. What ought to be its warmest recommendation, however, seeing that it possesses so many other good qualities, that it is issued by our own Church, and contains missionary information bearing chiefly on our own efforts at home and abroad. We have much pleasure in recommending it to the different congregations within our Synod.

#### APPROACHING MEETING OF SYNOD.

The meeting of our Synod will be held this year in the town of Pictou on the Wednesday of the present month. Should all attend, there will be present 18 ministers and nearly as many elders, exclusive of deputations from other Synods. We intended to devote an article to this important subject but circumstances have prevented us. We can only express our hope that all their proceedings will be characterised by that dignity of demeanor, and solemnity of manner becoming our highest Church Court, and that much will be done, calculated to advance the Redeemer's kingdom both at home and abroad.

#### LAY ASSOCIATION.

1860.	
Feb. 1, By New Glasgow cong.,	£7 11
22, By West Branch E. River,	5 4
Mar. 3, By East Branch E. River,	8 16
Apr. 30, By New Glasgow cong.,	8 5
Feb. 3, By Pictou Town,	4 1
“ By East end Pictou,	1 10
Mar. 7, By East end Carriboo,	0 6
14, By West Branch River John,	9 4
31, By West end Carriboo,	0 5
“ By Carriboo Island,	0 7
Apr. 9, By West end Carriboo,	0 7
19, By Cape John,	3 1
21, By Scotch Hill,	0 16
May 4, By Pictou Town,	1 18

JAS. FRASER, Treas.  
New Glasgow, 22nd May, 1860.

#### INDIA MISSION.

Collection St. Andrew's Church,  
Pictou, £5 10

WM. GORDON,  
Treas.