

The Madiai—A correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Florence, of date January 2, says:—"I have been waiting to write to you day after day in the hopes that I might be able to tell you that the Madiai were free. Alas! they are still in bonds, although a week ago we were told that there was no doubt they would soon be at liberty, for the Tuscan Ministers are anxious to get rid of them; but the Grand Duke with cruel obstinacy would not yet allow this, though he said he was prepared to grant them a commutation of their sentence, but did not say when. We saw Rosa on New-Year's day, and found her in better health and very cheerful. I will describe to you her frightful costume, in which nevertheless she looked well and dignified. Her chemise is of coarse material like sailcloth; then she wears a knitted worsted garment, over which is a brown duffle robe, such as is worn by the Franciscans. Over all is worn the wry of the prison,—i.e., a broad yellow-and-white striped coarse linen material, the skirt as tight as a sack; and on her head she wears a close skullcap of the same, fastened by a tape under her chin, no hair being seen. She has coarse hose and great black shoes. I am not sure that I ever told you, when describing her cell, that her seat was a round stool like a milking stool, chained to the wall in a corner of the room; and in the opposite corner is a small foot-stool also chained, so that poor Rosa, when at her work on the stool of repentance, cannot make use of the second small stool to keep her feet from the cold brick floor. I tell you all this, because I see some English papers speak of the kindness with which they are treated. The officials are as kind as they dare to be. About ten days ago M. Colombo, the Swiss Minister, chaplain to the Prussian Legation, obtained leave through the King of Prussia to visit once the prisoners. When we saw him on his return, he said he had never met with any one so completely living above the world as this child of God, Francesco Madiai. He said to M. Colombo that he felt he had done with earthly things, as he believed it was God's will that he should die for His cause, and he had therefore tried not to think of his dear wife and her sufferings, except when in prayer. Persecutions are going on here. Thirty prisoners are now in the Bargello on religious accusations. Guarducci is still there. Another case, similar to the one of last year, has taken place. A Bible reader was taken dangerously ill; his doctor (as he was bound to do) gave notice to the priest, who hastened to the bedside of the sick man. The latter thanked him for coming, but said he had no need of his assistance; that he had, he hoped, made his peace with God through the alone mediation of Jesus. The priest was furious, and sent off for the police, who now surround the house."

THE APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION.—Mr. Sheridan Knowles lectured on the evening of Monday week in Ardagh Chapel, Kothway, the subject being "The Roman Dogmas of the Apostolic Succession, and the Oral Word of God." The celebrity of the lecturer attracted to the scene a large crowd of all classes, including clergymen of the Established Church, Free Church, Reformed Presbyterian Church, and others; elders in large numbers; the Provost, Bailiffs, and nearly all the members of the Town Council. At the conclusion the lecturer challenged any Roman Catholic clergyman to meet him in open debate, and discuss the subject upon Scriptural grounds. Mr. Knowles has announced his intention of giving another lecture, as he was obliged for want of time to pass over several things of importance which he meant to include in this one.

UNIVERSITIES' MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.—An eloquent sermon in connection with this association was preached to a very crowded audience in the East Church on Sabbath evening last from Psalm viii. 2, 4. This society has been the means of leading not a few to devote, not their money merely, but themselves to the cause of Missions; and we rejoice to learn that its members contemplate engaging personally in

Home Mission operations by visiting in the most destitute parts of the city, and establishing preaching stations wherever opportunity offers. We trust they will carry their resolution into effectual practice, for assuredly this is a field in which there is every too abundant work for labourers of all denominations. *N. of Scotland Gazette, 14th January.*

During the past year the Edinburgh Bible Society have circulated 137,800 copies of the Scriptures, or 6,800 more than the number issued in the previous year, and about 1,500 above the circulation in 1847. A large proportion consisted of Gaelic Bibles, supplied to emigrants and to all parts of the Highlands. 8000 Bibles and Testaments were sent to Ireland; 1,200 Bibles to the Colonies, and 2,500 German school Bibles had been placed at the disposal of the agents for the Society at Hamburg. In the city of Edinburgh 1250 Bibles had been distributed.—*Jany '63.*

It is said that J. Douglas, Esq., of Oavers (the author of the masterly little treatise entitled "Rome and Maynooth") has just presented to the London City Mission the munificent sum of £500 in aid of the circulating libraries of that important institution.

We observe from the *Bombay Times* that the Rev. Dr. Sterenson, senior Scotch chaplain in Bombay, has been elected President of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in room of Sir Erskine Perry, resigned on his return to Europe.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED SINCE LAST PUBLICATION.

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N. B. Erratum in February No.—"Alexander Crawford, Port Dover, 1849 50, 5s.," should have been 1851 52.

P. S. Along with this number several of our clerical and other friends will receive a few extra copies of our January and February numbers, and they will oblige us by giving them, as specimens of our periodical, to any of their hearers and others whom they may suppose likely to become subscribers. They will further oblige us by forwarding before the end of March any names which they may have thus added to our Subscription List, as we intend, in future, to restrict the numbers printed off as nearly as possible to the amount on the List.

J. S. HUNTER,
NOTARY PUBLIC,

No. 2

Great St. James Street, Montreal.

The Presbyterian

Is published for the Lay Association by John Lovell at his office, St. Nicholas Street, Montreal.

All communications, and letters enclosing remittances to the *Presbyterian*, to be addressed (*Post-paid*) to "The Editor of the *Presbyterian*, Montreal."

Printed by JOHN LOVELL at his Steam Printing Establishment, St. Nicholas Street.