

capital, to obtain the spiritual help thus asked. The call has, doubtless, ere this been answered.

POLYNESIA.—The eagerness of the people to obtain the Word of God is a marked feature in the accounts from Samoa. The Rev. A. W. Murray, of Upolu, states that a few weeks before, on visiting another island, he had taken a case of Bibles, that they were all bought up in about a week, and that many more might have been sold if he had had them. Since the time referred to, another shipment of 2,000 copies had been received, and a further supply had been sent, which was being eagerly bought up. Mr. Murray had conversed with about 116 candidates in this district (Faaseleleaga), about sixty of whom were admitted to different churches. The liberality of the natives of Upolu deserves notice. They raised, for religious objects, ordinary and special, in connexion with the London Society, last year, no less than 513*l.* 19*s.*

ITALY.—Is passing through a crisis just now which her friends will regard with much interest. The Parliament has been dissolved, and preparations are making all over the country for a general election. For the first time since the constitution of the kingdom, the clergy have taken counsel together, and have resolved that it is their duty not only to take part in the contest themselves, but to guide their flocks also as to the votes they should give. Hence there is a fear on the part of some timid friends of freedom that their influence with the laity will so far prevail as to return a majority in their own favour, and to undo all the work of union that has been so painfully consolidated within the last ten years. It is forgotten that every one, priest or layman, who participates in the election, must take the oath of fidelity to the existing Constitution, and that their efforts, though they may retard, cannot prevent the growth of Italian liberty. The Ministers themselves appear to have no such fears; on the contrary, they boldly challenge the clerical party to do their worst, by announcing a programme of measures for the next Parliament, which, if carried, will be fatal to priestly influence. They avow their intention to lay their hands on all monastic institutions and ecclesiastical property in the land, and to make such a redistribution as will ameliorate the condition of the country clergymen on the one hand; while on the other it will provide for such a scheme of national education as shall be in accordance with the wants of the age.

TO THE FRIENDS OF THE JUVENILE MISSION.

The burden of labour connected with all the departments of this Scheme has proved too much even for the herculean shoulders of Mr. Paton, although he has carried it on with indefatigable perseverance. With a view to retain his indispensable services, by diminishing his work, the Synod, as will be seen by the minutes of the last session, has appointed me Secretary. He has requested me to conduct the home and foreign correspondence of the Scheme. Having received the books, and other memoranda of that department, I am now prepared to forward communications to India, and otherwise to serve the orphans and their supporters in the humble discharge of the duties of my office. In undertaking this work, I am happily assured, by Mr. Paton's ready promise of counsel and aid, that his hard-earned experience and practical wisdom will not be lost to the Mission.

Remittances will, as formerly, be sent to the Treasurer, John Paton, Esq., Kingston.

I have the honour to be, my dear brethren,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM BELL.

PRESENTATION.—On the 25th October, a deputation from the congregation of Oxford, consisting of Mr. John McEvoy, an elder, and Mr. Thomas Maguire, an adherent of the congregation, waited on the Rev. W. T. Canning, and in name of the people of both parts of his charge, presented him with a valuable horse. An address, expressive of the feelings of respect and esteem which the people entertained for their pastor, and prayers for a blessing on his labours, and wishes for the continued health of himself and his family was subsequently presented at a meeting of the congregation. The Rev. Mr. Canning made a truly eloquent and touching reply, in thanking the congregation for their valuable gift, and for the kind expressions by which it was accompanied.