

that offers, it does not appear that the result has been any increase of adherents: on the contrary, there are abundant proofs that the body is on the wane. At the annual meeting—where, of course, the best face would be put on all that related to their affairs—there was no exultation over past success, no sanguine anticipation of future triumph; but some regret that Unitarianism had not yet done its work; and mourning over the fact, that they had but forty churches in Ireland, and in Scotland only five. But the organ of the body, the *Inquirer*, only a fortnight ago, boldly broke ground, and admitted that defections from their midst were now become so numerous that it was no use concealing the fact. "Year by year," it says, "our congregations grow weaker,—often in numbers, more often still in social influence and relative importance. It is but a short time since the treasurer of one of our institutions assured us that the denomination to which we belong is gradually changing its character altogether, and that he now drew his subscriptions from a lower grade in the great middle class. Or if we take individual congregations, we find the same result; and Wakefield, Exeter, and Norwich are but individual examples of a universal rule. Liverpool has doubled and trebled its population, and the three Unitarian congregations, which existed at the beginning of the century, barely maintain their ground, either socially or numerically."—*Patriot*.

**PRIZE ESSAY.**—The Home and Foreign Record of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (Old School) contains an offer of a prize of \$200 for the best essay on *Religion in the Family*.

**OPENING OF COOKE'S CHURCH, TORONTO.**—A new Presbyterian church has been opened for Divine Service in Toronto; the Rev. Dr. Blackwood of Philadelphia, and the Rev. Wm. Ormiston of Hamilton, officiating in the services of the day. The pastor is the Rev. Wm. Gregg, formerly of Belleville. The name given to the church is not euphonious, but it is intended as a compliment to the Irish orator and divine, the Rev. Dr. Cooke, of Belfast.

**KNOX COLLEGE BILL.**—The act of incorporation for this College, having passed both houses of the Provincial Parliament, has received from the Governor General the Royal assent, and become law.

#### LITERARY.

**NEW BOOKS.**—It is an unusually dull season with the publishers, and few new books of importance are announced.

Messrs. T. & T. Clark of Edinburgh advertise the third edition of *Principal Fairbairn's Hermeneutical Manual*, in 2 vols. 8vo., price 18s.

The same publishers have also issued a new translation of Dr. Ullmann's treatise on the "Sinlessness of Jesus," which we have noticed elsewhere.

A Memorial of the American Mission at Futteghurh, and of the martyred Missionaries, is in preparation by the Rev. J. Johnston Walsh, who was for many years stationed at Futteghurh. The volume will be published by Joseph M. Wilson, Philadelphia.

**EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.**—A Royal Commission has been issued, "to inquire into the present state of popular education in England, and to consider and report what measures, if any, are required for the extension of sound and cheap elementary instruction to all classes of the people." The members of this commission are the Duke of Newcastle, Sir J. F. Coleridge, the Rev. W. C. Lake, the Rev. W. Rogers, Goldwin Smith, Esq., N. W. Senior, Esq., and Edward Miall, Esq.

**SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY REFORM.**—A Government Bill has passed the House of Commons, and will undoubtedly become law, effecting great changes and reforms in the Universities of Scotland. The King's and Marischal Colleges of Aberdeen are to form one university,—the King's College only to retain a Faculty of Arts. The patronage of Town Councils is taken away. Principals are no longer required to be clergymen. Twelve Commissioners are appointed, with large powers, to carry out the provisions of the Bill. They are the Duke of Argyle, the Earl of Aberdeen, the Earl of Mansfield, the Lord Justice General, Sir William Gibson Craig, Bart., the Lord Justice Clerk (late Lord Advocate Inglis), Lord Ardmillan, William Stirling, Esq. of Keir, James Moncrieff, Esq., Alexander Hastie, Esq., A. M. Dunlop, Esq.