

these words: "It is not want of knowledge for which we condemn Mr. Spurgeon; it is the daring assumption which he makes of exclusive knowledge; the cunning flattery by which he insinuates that his hearers are almost the only proper persons to share this knowledge with him; his reckless denunciations of all who differ from himself; and lastly, his audacious violations of propriety in his dramatic representations. We have a right to reproach him with these things, because they have the worst effects upon his hearers. A congregation that constantly listens to the spiritual dram-drinking that Mr. Spurgeon encourages, will become not only bigoted, but greedy after stronger doses of excitement. What excited them once will fall flat upon their palate. The preacher will be obliged to become more and more extravagant, as his audience becomes more and more exacting, and the end may be an extensive development of dangerous fanaticism.

SCOTLAND.—The annual Synod and episcopal Visitation of the Diocese of St. Andrew's was recently held at Perth. The bishop delivered a very able and learned charge on the sentiments of Calvin, Luther, and the other reformers on the subject of Episcopacy, contrasting the successive modifications of their views with the perfectly consistent course of the Church of England during that eventful period. The consideration of a report of a committee, appointed to draw up a model constitution for churches—the object of which had been to devise some remedy for the tyranny exercised over the clergy in Scotland by the lay vestries—was postponed.

FRANCE.—The French clergy have converted themselves almost universally to Ultramontanism, but a violent quarrel has been for a long time going on between the two sections of this school, represented by the *Univers* and the *Ami de la Religion*. The former is the organ of the extreme Ultramontane party, and has obtained the approval of all the leading Cardinals, Archbishops, and Bishops. But the result, of the contest and of the tone and temper in which it has been conducted appears to have disposed the great mass of the laity to regard Ultramontanism with less favour than ever. The sarcas-

tic tone of even the most respectable portion of the French press may be taken as an index of the general feeling of its readers. This state of feeling, though right in itself, must be considered a misfortune, as everything must be which creates a breach between a whole people and their national clergy.

UNITED STATES.—The General Convention of the Church of the United States assembled at Philadelphia on the first of October. The Bishop of New Jersey, the energetic and fearless Bishop Doane, preached the opening sermon, and it is a cause for congratulation that all men who have read this striking discourse, are agreed in the high estimate which they put upon it.

The discussions on the various topics which have been brought before the Convention have been marked by the usual ability and earnestness, but are not invested with much interest to us, inasmuch as they are chiefly of local importance. The principal debates have been upon new canons for the "Trial of Bishops," and the "Trial of the Clergy." With regard to the latter it was proposed to transfer the jurisdiction from the separate dioceses, to whom it now belongs, to the General Convention, so as to procure uniformity in the mode of procedure. This proposition was however rejected, chiefly, it would seem, on account of the strong dislike which the Americans entertain to any centralization of power. The "Trial of Bishops," it might have been hoped, would be a subject of no great practical moment, but we were startled into a different opinion by reading the remark of Dr. Evans, that ten per cent of the American bishops have been subjected to trial. The chief difficulty appears to be to secure fairness and impartiality to the accused party.

A canon has been reported by which the Morning Prayer, Litany, Communion Office, and Evening Prayer are declared to be four distinct services. We have not yet seen what action has been taken upon it.

Canons have been enacted by which the residence of a bishop in his diocese and the visitation of every church at least once in three years are rendered compulsory.

California has been admitted into the number of the dioceses.