

CHURCH NEWS.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

A NORMAN congregation near Munich, Germany, consisting of sixteen, was recently dissolved by the civil authorities.

In the Western States, so varied is the population, that Lutheran services are conducted in thirteen different languages.

The Christian Chronicle, of which Dr. Joseph Parker was at one time the editor, has been incorporated with the Christian Commonwealth.

The Autocrat of Russia has changed the parochial schools of the Lutheran Church on the Baltic by one stroke of his iron pen into "Orthodox" public schools.

The Church of Scotland H. and F. Mission Record for April, contains an obituary notice of the Rev. John Monteith, Glencairn, whose death occurred on February 20th.

The Young Men's Christian Association, of Detroit, will soon have a handsome and suitable home, \$40,000 having been subscribed toward the building, which is not to exceed \$50,000.

Recent statistics of the Order of the Jesuits show it counts 2,500 missionaries, and that it can boast of having had 248 saints, 1,500 martyrs, 13 popes, 60 cardinals, 4,000 archbishops and bishops, and 6,000 authors.

The masses are at length being reached to a large extent in France. It is estimated that more than 400,000 persons attended the McAll Mission in Paris alone last year; while Mr. Gibson reports 35,000, and Miss De Broen, in her Belleville Mission, counts 20,000 a year.

The U. P. Missionary Record for April, contains obituary notices of Rev. John Hogg, D.D., missionary of the U. P. Church of America, who died at Assouat, Egypt, on February 27th, in the fifty-third year of his age and twentieth of his ministry, and also of Mr. Andrew Tod, Lassawde.

At the Methodist New York conference, held recently, the committee on tobacco reported—and their report was adopted—in favour of advising all ministers and members of the Conference to abstain from the use of tobacco, and suggested that all candidates for the ministry should be free from this habit.

The total receipts of the American Bible Society in March were \$58,463.59. The total receipts in the year ending March 31st were \$521,910.59. The issues from the Bible House in March were \$7,180. The whole number of volumes issued from the Bible House during the year, not including those issued in foreign lands, was 904,179.

The monthly report of the Treasurer of the American Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, on the 1st of April, showed that \$203,000 must be received during the month of April in order to meet the appropriations of the year and complete the payment of the debt. During the first third of the month (up to April 9th) \$25,000 has been received, leaving \$178,000 to be provided for during the remaining twenty-one days.

The Southern Presbyterians of Kentucky have raised \$100,000 to endow Central University. They have done the work in sixty days. Of this sum Mr. W. H. M. Brayer gives \$30,000 to endow the chair of Christian Evidences, Mr. Orville Ford, of Eminence, Ky., gives \$20,000 towards the endowment of the chair of English Language and Literature, one lady, Mrs. Mary B. Kincaid, gives \$10,000, and two gentlemen \$10,000 each. So the sum was made up.

There are no fewer than 153 professors of Hebrew in the United States and Canada. The Roman Catholics head the list with twenty-two, the Presbyterians follow with twenty-one, next come the Baptists with fifteen, the Methodists and Episcopalians have thirteen each, and the Congregationalists ten. The others are distributed among the minor Christian bodies, only eleven being credited to institutions that have no denominational connection.

Mr. J. T. MORTON, a London merchant and well-known benefactor of the English Presbyterian Church, has proposed to the Foreign Missions Society to send through its agency four missionaries to South-western China through the Burmah opening. Two of these are to be ordained, and two medical, and Mr. Morton will defray the initial expenses and the salaries for three years. This equals a gift of \$25,000. The Society is discussing the offer, as it involves an annual outlay of \$10,000 at the end of three years.

Formal intimation has been received at the offices of the English Presbyterian Church of the undermentioned legacies left to the church by Miss Mary Harbourn, of Manchester, sister of the late Mr. Robert Harbourn, of Bolesworth, and of Mr. George F. Harbourn: Foreign Missions, £500; Home Missions, £500; Church Building Fund, £500; Sustentation Fund, £500; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, £500; Widows' and Orphans' Fund, £500. Our church, says The Messenger, has great reason to remember gratefully the princely generosity of the Harbourn family.

The disestablishment movement has manifested itself in Sweden. The Lutheran Church, both in Sweden and Norway, is the church by law established. Dissenting churches have of late years, for various reasons, sprung into existence, and in some of the larger centres

of population such churches have developed considerable strength. With the growth of dissent has grown the desire for equality, and the jealousy and dislike of a favoured class. A few earnest men at Stockholm have started the Religious Liberty Union, and have issued a prospectus. Several tracts also have been published setting forth their grievances.

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church has appealed to every local church to take a special collection on Easter Sunday for the relief of the treasury. The receipts of April must reach \$26,000 in order that the fiscal year may meet its own expenses, or must reach \$35,000 to meet the outgo of the year and remove the debt (\$9,000) under which the year began, or \$39,000 if the \$100,000 recommended by the General Synod is to be raised. April, last year, yielded \$22,000, and if either of the amounts just mentioned is to be realized, special collections seem necessary.

From a statement just issued of the Synodical income and expenditure of the United Presbyterian Church, it appears that, during the year ended December last, the receipts amounted to £83,569, showing an increase of £4,325 over the contributions of 1884. In the previous year, however, the income had risen to the exceptional total of £102,863. The largest fund of the church, that for foreign missions, has considerably decreased, and a credit balance of £5,550 at December, 1884, has been almost extinguished. The income for the augmentation of stipends was £15,405, showing a decrease of about £250. The grant payable to congregations will thus, as last year, be £16 less than had been paid previously, when a minimum stipend of £200 was attained by the church.

A VERY influential meeting was recently held in New York in the interest of the Indians. Ministers of various denominations addressed the large company, among whom were many of the best citizens. The getting up of the meeting appears to have been almost entirely the work of Mrs. John Jacob Astor, who is ever abundant in philanthropic efforts. A letter from the President of the United States was read by Bishop H. C. Potter, of the Episcopal Church, who followed it with a stirring address. The Rev. Dr. John Hall, Rev. Dr. R. S. MacArthur, Rev. Dr. W. Ormiston and the Rev. Dr. W. M. Taylor all spoke—pungently and to the point. Resolutions were passed lamenting past apathy and wrong in the treatment of the Indian tribes, and recognizing the benevolent efforts now being made to give the Indians religious and secular education. The resolutions also urged "the employment of means adapted to the varied conditions of the Indians and fitted to give them lands in severalty duly secured to them, and to raise them to self support and the safe enjoyment of social rights."

The temperance report submitted to the Presbyterian Synod of New Zealand at its meeting in January, was a remarkably hopeful document. A country elder volunteered the statement that in the township where he lives, a railway centre, where many resort during the holidays, he had been struck with the fact that during the Christmas and New Year holidays he had not seen a single person the worse of drink—a thing he could not say regarding any previous year. Another elder said that in the important township where he lives there is a marked change in the habit of offering spirituous liquors to visitors as refreshment. The Wellington Post in a recent issue expresses an opinion that one great cause of the increased order, sobriety, and decorum, which year by year marks the celebration of the festive seasons, without in the least detracting from hearty enjoyment or genuine pleasure, is the rapidly increasing number of New Zealand youths not addicted to indulgence in drink. In temperance they set a good example to their elders. Very rarely indeed are New Zealand born young men found giving way to intemperate habits.—Christian Leader.

DR. MOORHOUSE, the New Bishop of Manchester, appears to be a great friend of the Salvation Army. In an inaugural address at the Church of England Assembly, Melbourne, he said—"The Salvation Army has, I think, a special mission. Its avowed object is a very large one—to make every man love God. Practically, however, its labour is confined exclusively to the lowest classes in our cities and places of considerable population. All its methods of appeal are shaped with a view to reaching those classes, winning their interests, and bringing them into the Kingdom of God. I cannot believe that its religious patriotism, its military ritualism, its noise and disconcerting familiarity can ever be made tolerable to men of thought, culture and largely developed religious reverence. If I had to judge this movement by its adaptation to any classes but to those who are lowest in culture and intelligence, I should pronounce it a huge mistake, and say it was destined to disastrous failure. But I do not judge it thus. I look upon it as an effort to win classes which the Christian churches have not won, and, so considered, it must be judged very differently; its means must be estimated with reference to the subject which they are intended to attain.

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