

Australia was a converted convict, who had been sentenced to death for murder, which sentence was commuted to banishment and penal servitude for life. This was a little over a quarter of a century ago. There are now three conferences, flourishing and hopeful, with an aggregate of over three hundred ministers and a membership of over sixty thousand.

THE Prince of Wales is evidently not idle in India. On one day whilst in Bombay he paid return visits to a number of the native Princes who had waited upon him the previous day, then held a levee which was numerously attended, and afterwards visited a native school fete, where as many as 7,000 children "of all castes" were sumptuously entertained in honour of the Prince. Some Parsee girls ventured to place wreaths of flowers round His Royal Highness' neck, and the whole youthful company sung in a native dialect "God bless the Prince of Wales." From this very pleasant scene, by which he seems to have been greatly enchanted, His Royal Highness went to a dinner party at the Government House, and afterwards danced at a ball.

THE annual meeting of the American Board of Foreign Missions, held at Chicago the other week, was largely attended, and was marked by many proceedings of great interest. Work among the Maharrattas of India, long an unfruitful task, has been extended with excellent results. The Chinese missions are as usual reported to be in a prosperous condition. In Turkey the prospects are better than ever, partly on account of the newly-granted permission to print the Scriptures in the Turkish tongue, and partly because the course of the missionaries during the famine in Asia Minor was such as to draw the natives closer to them. Among the Zulus of South Africa, churches and schools are being established by the natives at their own expense.

A CONGRESS of ministers of all religious denominations is to be held next year in America, in connection with the centenary celebrations. The leading idea is to assemble representatives of Christianity from all parts of the world, in order to receive suggestions and discuss the best means of spreading the Christian faith, as a broad system of religion, without peculiarities of creed. The scheme is essentially evangelical, and the congress will assemble at Philadelphia or Cincinnati. There is a general hope that the conference may be able to recommend some neutral form of Christianity that Missionaries can present to the heathen, without entering into perplexities as to differing forms and doctrines.

HISTORICAL SERMONS.

A happy thought has occurred to the General Assembly of the United States, namely, to "improve" the occasion of the approaching Centennial Celebration of American Independence by the delivery of Historical discourses in terms of the following recommendation:—

"That the first Sabbath in July, 1876, be observed as a day of *praise and thanksgiving to God*, for the manifold blessings with which he has crowned us as a people; and that on that day the pastor of each church deliver a discourse on the history of his church. The historical discourses, herein directed to be delivered, shall be transmitted to the Presbyterian Historical Society for arrangement, and for such further disposition of them as the General Assembly, or the Committee appointed to have charge of the subject, may direct."

Now, if our pastors are loyal to the Assembly, and use proper diligence in preparing their sermons, the future historian of Presbyterianism will have ampler and more accurate material for writing its history than any of his predecessors. The History itself will, in fact, be written.—*Phila. Presbyterian.*

The Presbyterian Record.

MONTREAL, 1ST JANUARY, 1876.

The statement made in the *Prospectus* respecting the price of THE RECORD, was somewhat ambiguous, we must allow. To remove all misapprehensions, we beg leave now to state, that *any number of copies will be sent to one address for 25 cents per annum—free of postage.* If that is not cheap enough, we give it up. Single subscribers must pay 60 cents. As a rule, we cannot afford to pay "the usual commission" to canvassers and agents, but we hope that in every congregation some one will be found to work for us and further our interests—for the love they bear to the Church.

A large number of orders have already