

The Record.

APRIL, 1861.

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We beg specially to urge on all subscribers, who have not forwarded their subscriptions for the present or past years, to do so without delay. The accounts of the church close on 30th April, and the *Record* accounts are closed then also. The approaching union and the changes which it may bring with it, make it still more necessary that all subscription should be paid. We thank agents and others for their prompt attention hitherto, and request as a special favour that they collect and remit as much as possible of what is outstanding, before the end of the month.

MONTHLY NOTES ON PROGRESS OF RELIGION.

We rejoice that from month to month we have so many interesting notices to record in regard to the progress and revival of religion. From almost every quarter of the world interesting intelligence is received. To the enquiry "Watchman, what of the night?" hopeful answers can be given. In various quarters the shadows of the spiritual night appear to be breaking and the morning star is arising. May the light shed down by the Sun of righteousness on our world go on increasing more and more even to the perfect day. The following notices are from various periodicals.

LONDON.—The various means employed in London for reclaiming the masses continue to be plied with diligence and earnestness. Among the most successful of these means may be mentioned, the midnight meeting movement. During the period that this movement has been carried on, not much more than a year, upwards of five hundred persons have been rescued from a life of sin. Most of these are respectably settled, and many of them give evidence of being under the influence of vital religion. At a late meeting attended by about 300 after an address from Mr. Radcliffe, a very considerable number were impressed and not less than fifty were rescued on this single occasion.

There is reason to believe that the preaching of the gospel is in many cases greatly blessed. On a recent occasion Mr. Spurgeon stated, that of the 1600 persons composing the membership of his church, at least 500 were men and women who had formerly been profligate and ungodly.

The Bible women's movement is also increasingly successful, and in connexion

with other special movements great good is being done.

"An evening meeting for mutual counsel and united prayer, was recently held at Sussex Hall, Leadenhall Street, in the city. About 300 persons were present, including clergymen and ministers, representatives of Young Men's Christian Societies, City Missions, Sunday and Ragged Schools, as well as of the Open-air Preaching, the Sailor's Mission, Bible Women Mission, special services in theatres and halls. The Hon. and Rev. B. W. Noel, and Mr. Reginald Radcliffe, spoke on the necessity and importance of practical efforts for the conversion of souls. A considerable portion of the time was spent in prayer. This meeting will be followed by others of a similar nature, and by increased exertions to extend the knowledge of Christ among the masses in the east of London."

SCOTLAND.—In Dumfriesshire and in parts of Lanarkshire the work of revival is advancing. Mr. Hammond an American Student of Divinity has been highly honoured in the work. In Glasgow much is doing in reclaiming fallen females. One lady has been the means of reclaiming 163 profligate women.

IRELAND.—Mr. Richard Weaver is now labouring in Dublin and is attracting as large crowds as in London. Other means are being employed in Belfast and other places. Some interesting meetings have lately been held in connexion with the Irish Church Missions. An interesting letter appeared in a late number of the *News of the Churches*, written by Miss Whateley, daughter of the Archbishop of Dublin, with reference to those missions."

"Miss Whateley refers to results—1st in congregations formed for Protestant worship in churches built during the last nine years. "In one district in the West, where formerly there were only two Protestant congregations, there are now twenty-eight, some of them numbering several hundreds. 2d. In the Mission Schools, the Roman Catholic children give answers which elicit the warmest admiration. Of these schools there are now seventy-six in different parts of Ireland, with an attendance of four thousand children.

"A remarkable blessing," it is added, "has been found to accompany the text teaching. The majority of those who, by this means, are for the first time brought in contact with the life-giving Word of God, are adults, and in many instances aged men and women on the brink of eternity. On an average, two thousand two hundred and eighteen Roman Catholics are thus indoctrinated with the incorruptible seed of the Word. Who can set bounds to the blessings that may thus have been spread!

As to the number of converts, Miss Whateley says that "the actual number of those who openly come out from Rome, could not be ascertained with correctness, without serious risk to the lives of converts. They are known to be increasing." But "these open converts bear but a small proportion to those really influenced. Multitudes go on for years in a kind of transition state, sometimes wavering, but month by month advancing toward Protestantism; others secretly convinced, but not venturing to make known their opinions. Numbers go to other localities, and then avow them-

selves. Great numbers who have concealed their views in life, are given strength on their death-bed to make a good confession, in spite of furious opposition, and die declaring with their last breath that they want no priest but Jesus. Many dying during the past year, have gone to their rest, trusting in Jesus alone, and rejoicing in the hope of glory. 'The deeper I got into the clefts of the rock, Jesus, the safer I am,' were the words of one of these—a convert in the fullest sense. 'I think,' said a dying convert girl, 'I think I see my Saviour stretching out his arms and calling me to come; I long to go.'" It is then said, 'Multitudes greater still, who emigrate to America, shake off the yoke of Rome as soon as they set their foot on what is to them a land of liberty.'

FRANCE.—From France there is, notwithstanding frequent opposition from local magistrates, cheering intelligence of progress. In one village called Melay there was recently a remarkable awakening resulting in the gathering together of many who were formerly in spiritual darkness. In Paris, which may be regarded as the centre of political and religious influence in France, there are now thirty Protestant places of worship, in which are held sixty-eight Sabbath and twenty-one week day services. Many of the congregations are gathered from Romanism. There are eleven religious journals (of which, however three are rationalistic) and ten Protestant booksellers. There are Bible and Tracts Societies and various benevolent institutions. Besides government or communal schools there are in France between 500 and 600 Protestant Schools supported by the Protestant community.

ITALY.—The state of matters in Italy is full of promise. The immediate spiritual fruit may not be so great as some have been anticipating; but the plough is being sent over the whole peninsula, the seed cast into the furrows, and the result may be left to the God of the harvest. What a change is indicated by the following simple paragraph regarding the Union Meetings for prayer held at Florence:—

"On each day, beginning Monday and concluding this (Saturday) forenoon, meetings have been held. The Scotch Chapel, kindly opened for the purpose, has been filled to overflowing. The meetings have been presided over by representatives of the English, Scotch, Vaudois, and Italian Churches; prayers have been offered up in English and Italian (in the latter language principally), and words of exhortation have been spoken in the spirit of truth and love. Many of the Italians present were working men, who made the sacrifice of their time in thus accepting the invitation widely circulated, the more remarkable as they were again found in their places at the nightly reunions for instruction or evangelization. Not the least interesting feature in a deeply interesting succession of meetings was this, that on one occasion, prayers were offered in succession by four servants of the Lord, who in other times had suffered imprisonment for the gospel's sake."

The Bible Society's agent reports a sale of 3400 copies of Scriptures at Naples, within five weeks. The book was as new to many of the priests as to the people. Do Sanctus' letter to "Pius IX." had been