

NOTES.

The case of Professor Smith of Aberdeen is now, it is to be hoped, finally disposed of by the Free Church of Scotland. The action of the Commission in suspending him from his office as professor of theology, has been approved by the Assembly, at its late meeting. Although the learned professor is a man of acknowledged talents, and profound Biblical scholarship, yet his views of inspiration are evidently so loose that the Church has considered it unsafe to recognize him as one of her theological tutors. He is now finally divorced from his chair, and in this decision every lover of the stricter and more conservative view in theology must greatly rejoice.

Perhaps no place in the world has been the scene of such terrible calamities during the present century as the island of *Scio*—or “Chios,” as it is called in the Acts of the Apostles. It lies off the coast of Asia Minor. It is about ninety miles in circumference, and its chief town has borne the same name as itself in both ancient and modern times. In 1822 forty thousand of its inhabitants were massacred or carried into captivity by the Turks. Very few remained. As soon as the population was in a measure restored, an earthquake desolated a large portion of its chief city. And now another fearful desolation has befallen that ill-fated island. Dr. Cuyler thus describes the scene which he witnessed as the result of the recent earthquake: “The city of Scio lies close to the sea, at the base of a steep range of volcanic mountains. As we drew up into the harbour, we could see from the ship’s deck, the desolation on the shore, extending even to the half-dozen neighbouring villages. Arriving at the wharf, such a scene of havoc and of horror presented itself as I have never beheld. * * * We walked through several streets that were heaped up with ruins to the depth of six feet! Every house on both sides was a mass of mingled walls, rooms and roofs thrown into the wildest confusion. * * * As far as I could judge, about half of the city is destroyed.”

This year, 1881, which will be memorable by the appearance of the Revised New Testament, is also marked by another significant event in connection with the Bible—the commemoration of the five hundredth anniversary of Wycliffe’s translation. This was the first translation of the Holy Scriptures into the English language. Since the day of Pentecost no event has had such an important bearing on the world’s evangelization. “Its results,” says the *Christian Monthly*, “are seen to-day in the churches and the philanthropic works of Great Britain, the United States, Australia, British India, the European Continent, and all the mission fields.” May it be commemorated with profound gratitude to God for what He has accomplished by His Word in the past, and in joyful hope of greater triumphs to be achieved in the future, when “the light of the knowledge of the glory of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.”