

## The World Field.

### ITEMS.

After being abolished for a quarter of a century, the death sentence has been restored in Switzerland.

Of John Knox the late Mr Froude truly said "he saved the Church which he had founded, and with it had saved also Scottish and English freedom."

The town authorities of Braddock, Penn., have passed an ordinance imposing a fine for every profane word used by any person on the streets of the town.

There are 1,300 Protestant Missionaries in China, or about one to every 300,000 of the population. Two entire provinces, with a population of 26,000,000, are entirely without Missionaries; while there are 900 large walled cities where no Missionary has ever been stationed.

Miss Compton, of Calcutta, says that the women of India are deeply religious and intensely conservative. Hundreds of men are held back from confessing Christ by the influence of the female members of their families. The higher classes of India are encouraging female education.

An English traveller at Tripoli had hard work getting his gripsack through the custom house, the officials having their suspicions aroused by his copy of Moody and Sankey Hymns, especially the hymn, "Ho, my comrades, see the signal waving in the sky!" What new revolt could that portend?

A Siberian millionaire, Ponomareff, who died recently, left 1,000,000 roubles with the direction that they should be placed in banks at compound interest for ninety-nine years, when the proceeds should be expended in the erection and maintenance of a Siberian University at Irkutsk, at which instruction shall be free.

The population of the Fiji Islands is estimated at 123,000; of these 103,775 attend the services of the Wesleyan Churches, and about 10,000 are Catholics. There are 40,000 children in the schools under the care of 1,095 teachers; and there are 10 European Missionaries, 72 native ministers, 40 catechists, 1838, local preachers; and a century ago these were cannibals.

Work among the Jews of Dublin has been lately established under the auspices of the British Jews Society. Open air meetings have been held, and have been well sustained. A mission house has been opened, with a reading room, a class room and a meeting place for enquirers—a great boon in every way. There has never been such an active year among the Jews of Dublin as the present.

"Miss Kate Marsden, whose life is devoted to mitigation of the sufferings of lepers, is preparing a chart, designed to show at one view the prevalence and spread of leprosy in various

countries. From the minimum figures already supplied by Government medical returns, and other reliable sources, she reckons that there are 1,300,000 lepers in the world. China alone is said to have more than 600,000, Japan 200,000, and India at least 100,000."

"It is one of the strangest things that while a Jewish parent will not think of disowning a son or a daughter if they fall away from the God of their fathers into any of the varied forms of skepticism and infidelity, yet as soon as they accept the Lord Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the prophetic utterances of their own Scriptures, which they sacredly hold to be true, they will immediately banish their loved children from home and friends, to be reckoned henceforth as the offscouring of the earth, or perhaps as dead."

### MADAGASCAR.

IN some respects this is the most interesting of all the missions of the London Missionary Society, on account of its endurance in the days of persecution, and its many noble martyrs. The Society sent its first missionaries to Madagascar in 1818. The country was then ruled by Radama, a most enlightened and humane ruler. He had brought all the tribes and clans of the Malagasy into nominal subjection to the one central ruler. The mission began in disaster. Two missionaries with their wives and two children settled at Tamatave. In a few weeks the ravages of fever had swept five out of the six away. Mr. Jones, who was the only survivor, returned, after a stay in Mauritius, in 1820, and went to the capital, where King Radama heartily welcomed him. In the following year he was joined by Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths. The Hova dialect had never existed in written form. There was no alphabet, no grammar, no vocabulary. The missionaries had first to learn to speak Malagasy, then write it down and reduce it to parts of speech, in order to teach the pupils at the schools they had opened to read and write their own language. But progress was made. The bright young scholars were deputed to open schools in the adjacent villages, and soon two thousand were under instruction. In 1826 the printing press was set up in the capital, amidst great rejoicing. In 1827 there were thirty-two schools and four thousand scholars, and they began at this time to print a translation of the Gospel of Luke. But in June of that year King Radama died. Ranavalona, one of the twelve wives of the late king, then by craft seized the kingdom, though Radama had nominated his nephew Rakotobe, who was the first to be killed. He is believed to have died professing the Christian faith. The whole family were put to death, and other fiendish crimes were perpetrated.

The Queen forbade at once teaching and learning. This, however, had one striking effect not