

## SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

## MISSIONARY AND ECCLESIASTICAL.

EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE AT BERLIN.—In the month of September the Evangelical Alliance met in the Capital of Prussia. Besides many visitors from all parts of Christendom, 1254 members were present. Of these Prussia sent 876, the other German States 103, Spain 1, France 12, Switzerland 11, Italy 2, Holland 11, Belgium 4, Denmark 11, Sardinia 2, Great Britain 166, Russia 12, Austria 7, Turkey 2, Greece 2, Asia 3, Africa 3, America 23, Australia 3. The King of Prussia attended some of the meetings, and received the members of the Alliance at the Palace. The conduct of His Majesty produced a great and beneficial impression. Among the eminent men whom this conference gathered together were Krummacher and Nitzsch of Berlin, Merle D'Aubigne of Geneva, Capadose of the Hague, from Scotland, Cairns of Berwick, and from England, Alford Dean of Canterbury, and Baptist Noel. We do not hear that much business was done, but certain topics of great importance were ably discussed. Dr. Nitzsch delivered an address on the universal priesthood of believers. Dr. Krafft of Bonn, read a paper on the question, "Why the return of the Church to orthodoxy had been followed by so little spiritual life in the Congregations." Beyschlag of Carlsruhe and others continued the discussion in a very interesting manner. Suggestions were thrown out for the better education of preachers, the more complete organization of the Church, and a more thorough study of Holy Scriptures. We regret that nothing was said of the observance of the Christian Sabbath, as bearing on the spiritual life. Why did the Scottish Divines hold their peace? Professor Plitt of Heidelberg addressed the Conference on religious liberty, and communicated those principles which are happily familiar to the British mind. In the discussion which followed, however, Dr. Krummacher gave utterance to those limited views of religious freedom which prevail in the Lutheran Church, and among the powers that be in Germany. The papers read at the conference, which will probably attract most attention, are the opening address by Dr. Krummacher, an eloquent vindication of the constitution and aims of the Evangelical Alliance; and a lecture by Mr. Cairns, of Berwick, (in German) on "the influence on each other, both in Christian Theology and in Christian Life, likely to be exercised by the close union of British and German Christians."

A Berlin Correspondent of the *News of the Churches*, says:—"It cannot be doubted that the Alliance has gained by this meeting a hold over the sympathies and affections of multitudes, who before regarded it with indifference, or at best distant curiosity. Much of this change may be ascribed to the decided and resolute adhesion of the King of Prussia to the Alliance, for "where the word of a king is, there is power." Not a little of the cordial interest of many leading clergymen of the national Churches of Germany is probably to be traced to this source; and possibly the noble stand made by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Low Church Bishops in England, may, to some extent, have been called forth by the influence of so distinguished an example. Be this as it may, the facts remain, most honourable to the parties and most gratifying to all lovers of the Alliance. As the result of the Berlin meeting, it has found a support in the Christian opinion of a portion of central Europe before altogether hostile or indifferent, and this must furnish the broadest basis for future operations, and give the Alliance a position in advance of all that could be attained even by the most influential gatherings in Paris or London. The wide adoption of Alliance principles by the theologians and Churches of Germany, must be regarded by all intelligent persons as the greatest victory which this confederation has yet achieved, and as destined to act most powerfully upon the Continent, as well as to exert a reaction upon the British and American Churches, proportioned to the fame and influence of Germany in the theological world. The other point of view in which the recent meeting may be contemplated, viz., in its bearings upon the future of German Christianity, is equally very cheering, and not less solemn and impressive. The wide acceptance of the Alliance basis is a proof of the general return of German theologians to the ground of evangelical orthodoxy; at the same time, the liberal spirit which has prompted such multitudes to break through the trammels of confessional prejudice, and to raise a public testimony against the reactionary tendencies of the high Lutheran party, is a most gratifying proof that the bigotry and narrow-mindedness of the latter are contrary to the genuine instincts of the German nature, and must ere long pass away. The sensation in Berlin has been immense; and the impression will doubtless extend to all parts of the German world. The earnest and practical character of all the leading addresses has struck a right key-note; and, indeed, as was justly remarked by Dr. Krafft of Bonn, the reproach