

spend the day in pleasure, and jollity, and amusement. I was in Brussels during part of the three days' celebration of Leopold being twenty-five years upon the throne. I saw Brussels when it had 40,000 people beyond its population in its streets. I was in Sardinia, and Switzerland, and Prussia, and Germany, I spent seven weeks in these countries, and on the two occasions I have referred to, the people were put to the test; and I declare that I see more drunkenness in the town of Edinburgh, at almost any time, in three days, than I saw in the seven weeks which I spent in these countries. Now, just think what a country this would be were we rid of this evil, with our intelligence, with our true religion, with our schools, with our Anglo-Saxon energy. I believe that were this shocking vice eradicated from the land, the sun of heaven never shone on such a country as Great Britain would be. And in proof of this just let me mention a very remarkable statement made by a foreigner. "O!" said he, "what a blessed Providence it is that you Anglo-Saxons are a drunken race." I thought this was rather a curious Providence. How could he make out the Providence there? But he added, "for were you not given to intemperance, and the slaves of intoxication, there is a talent and power and energy about you which would have made you masters of the whole world." (Applause.)

AUSTRALIA.

The *Edinburgh Witness* contains a report of the Committee of Chalmers' Church, Melbourne, under the ministrations of the Rev. Dr. Cairns. It gives some idea of what may be accomplished by energy and zeal in the colony of Victoria. It is stated that in the course of twelve months embraced in the Report, the congregation have reduced their debt from £3231 to £1830; and that but for some extraordinary but necessary outlay, it would have been still further reduced to £1100. In the years 1853 and 1854, which were the first two years of its congregational existence, it spent no less a sum than £14,820 for religious and congregational purposes, £11,600 of which was actually realized. "Though congregations in so rapidly growing a colony as Australia must necessarily be liable to fluctuations, yet the number of communicants in this congregation seems, notwithstanding frequent fluctuations, to have on the whole increased, from 287 in 1851, to 386 in 1856; and of 240 who sat down at the Lord's table in December 1855, only nineteen were absent in May of the following year." The Rev. Dr. Cairns, who ministers so acceptably amongst them, is in the enjoyment of a stipend of £1000 a year. It is stated in the same report that there are now at least twenty Scotch congregations in Victoria able and willing to maintain pastors who can get none.—*News of the Churches.*

A MINISTER'S WORK AND PAY.

At the recent meeting of the Scottish Congregational Union at Aberdeen, Dr. Alexander, Congregationalist Minister, Edinburgh said,—“I am ready, without any beating about the bush, to say that we are all underpaid for what we do. I was talking lately with a London business man—a successful merchant. It was about the time bishops were getting made, and we talked about their incomes. He said to me, ‘And if is a fair question, what do you get?’ I told him. ‘Well,’ he answered, ‘is that all you get?’ ‘Yes; and, compared with what many of my brethren get, it is pretty fair.’ ‘And what do you do for that?’ I said I would enlighten him upon this:—‘In the first place, I compose and write what would be fully two pretty thick octavo volumes; about as much as any literary man bending over his pen thinks of doing, and more than some do in a year. In the next place, I have to do as much speaking every week as a lawyer at the bar in good practice. Then, in the third place, to do as much visiting as a surgeon in average practice would do. And, in the next place, I think I write as many letters as many of your great merchants do.’ ‘Well,’ he said, ‘is yours an extraordinary case?’ I said, ‘Not at all; a man's duties correspond with his sphere, but many of my brethren do as much, some of them perhaps a little more.’ ‘Well,’ he said again, they may say as much as they please about ministers getting too much for their work, but none of us would do half your work for four times your pay.’”