

THE BIBLE.

From an abstract of the Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society for the last year, we copy the following intelligence, showing the progress that the Word of God is making in different places:

FRANCE.—M. de Pressence writes—"You will, I am assured, join me in acknowledging that the Lord has marvellously aided us during the past year, in affording us the joy of beholding 92,765 copies sent forth from your depot in Paris in that period of time. 74,554 copies of the Scriptures have been required for the work of *colportage*, being upwards of four-fifths of the whole distributions of the year.

"Notwithstanding the increasing difficulties which surround the work of *colportage*, there has, during the past year, been an increase in the number of the *colporteurs* employed by the Society.

"The appearance of the work entitled 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' has induced many persons, both in Paris and in the country districts, to purchase the Bible. A person entered a bookseller's shop to purchase a Bible. A copy was given to her. She examined it carefully, and appeared to be looking for something which should decide her in her choice. After examining the book for a time, she exclaimed, 'I shall purchase this book, for I see that this is Uncle Tom's Bible.'"

TURKEY.—From the depots of CONSTANTINOPLE, SMYRNA, and BUCHAREST have been issued, during the past year, 9576 copies. In several of his letters Mr. Barker speaks of the opening that exists for the circulation of the sacred Scriptures amongst the Bulgarians. They readily receive the word of God, and more than 8000 copies of the Bulgarian New Testament have already been promulgated, principally by sale, amongst these simple and industrious people. The wonderful Reformation that is taking place amongst the Armenians and others in Turkey is one of the most interesting features to be met with in the annals of the Society's labours.

BORNEO.—Much interesting intelligence has been received from this important island, where the thick darkness seems at length yielding to the penetrating beams of heavenly truth.

The Rev. A. Hardeland writes—"As regards the distribution of the copies of the Dajak New Testament, I shall in future not have much to report to you; for, thanks be to God! and, I may also add, alas! we shall not have many left to distribute. Barely 200 copies still remain on hand. Above 1200 copies have been distributed."

BAROTONGA.—A letter from the Rev. A. Buzacott, who took with him, by the Missionary Ship "John Williams," 5000 copies of the Barotongan Bible, gives a very interesting account of the reception given to him when he reached the island. He writes—

"I cannot well describe the reception we met with when we arrived at our beloved island home: as soon as we approached the shore a simultaneous rush was made for the boat. The crew jumped out, and we soon found ourselves, boat and all, on the shoulders of the people. Including the captain and Mrs. Morgan, there were not less than eight of us thus borne away towards our house. The poor people were, after some time, prevailed upon to put down their burden. Men, women, and children, all crowded around us, anxious to give a proof of their affection by a warm and hearty grasp of the hand. The men were shouting for joy, and the women weeping aloud from the same cause: with this was mingled the voice of prayer and praise to our heavenly Father, who had thus permitted us to see each other's faces again in the flesh."

FRIENDLY ISLANDS.—An edition of 10,000 copies of the New Testament in the Tongan language has been completed, and placed at the disposal of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, for the use of their Missionaries in those islands.

THE YELLOW FEVER AT NEW ORLEANS.—A telegraphic despatch from New Orleans states that for the forty-eight hours ending Aug. 1st, two hundred and ninety-three deaths had occurred in that city, of which two hundred and twenty-three were of yellow fever. The New Orleans Bulletin of July 26th gives the report of the interments in that city for the week ending July 23d, at 627, of which 429 were of yellow fever.

MODERN SKEPTICISM.

A late number of the N. Y. *Independent* remarks on this subject as follows:

We believe that a great change is preparing in religious opinion, of which these and many of our best men know almost nothing. To those who are thrown into the currents of life, it is evident that men's minds are in unusual working, and that the very foundations of religious belief are rotten and shaking. Among all the earnest-minded young men who are at this moment leading in thought and action in America, we venture to say that four-fifths are skeptical even of the great historical facts of Christianity.

What is told as Christian doctrine by the churches, is not even considered by them. And furthermore, there is among them a general ill-concealed distrust of the clerical body as a class, and an utter disgust with the very aspect of modern Christianity and of church worship. The skepticism is not flippant; little is said about it. It is not a peculiarity alone of the radicals and fanatics; many of them are men of calm and even balance of mind, and belong to no class of ultraists. It is not worldly and selfish. The doubters lead in the bravest and most self-denying enterprises of the day. It is not an unbelief to be laughed, or hooted at, or hunted down. It is calm, abiding, earnest, sorrowful.

Not much is known of it above; but it underlies now all the strongest external movement.

There are, however, glimpses of it. You see it in the daily diminishing influence of the pulpit, and the increasing influence of the press; in the lessening number of strong and original minds who take hold of theology, and the tone of the men who are leading American thought. It speaks in these strange longings for new revelations, and in the occasional denunciations of the old.

Insanity in Romish Convents.—Mr. Seymour has stated, on the authority of an official visitor of the Roman convents, that one half of the nuns die raving mad before they have reached the age of twenty-five. It is no otherwise with their unhappy sisters of Tuscany. A gentleman, whose veracity and whose means of information are unquestionable, informs me that in one of the best managed convents in Florence, three girls have died during the course of the last year, screaming, foaming, cursing the system to which their youth had been offered up. Hitherto, considerable facilities have been afforded by the Tuscan law for the temporary return of the nuns to their families, in cases where the certificate of the family physician had pronounced such return to be necessary. But the law is constantly evaded or defied by the superiors of the convents. They hold at bay relatives, medical advisers, bishops, and even conceal or disregard the orders which they receive from Rome. In the Papal, as in all other despotisms, the delegated tyranny often defies its head, and effectually escapes from the control by which in theory it is curbed.—*Cor. of London Christian Times.*

RELIGIOUS DESTITUTION IN OREGON.—In Northern Oregon, generally, there is a great dearth of moral, religious and educational institutions. The tones of the church-going bell; those of the living preacher, and the instructions of the village disciplinarian, are alike almost unknown within its borders, more especially on the lands lying around the Sound waters. Its citizens include persons who were members of churches in the towns, whence they emigrated, who are daily mourning their deprivations, and waiting with much hope and anxiety for the establishment of schools and churches among them. They feel what every good citizen knows, that no community is complete, or can long remain quiet and orderly, unless it has a sanctuary reared among its inhabitants; until religion has its visible point of concentration, whence it shall be disseminated through the community, to counteract in some measure, the unhallowed thirst for gain which characterizes, so especially, the citizens of our country.—*Boston Courier.*

The Greek Church.—The orthodox church to which our readers will remember reference was made in the late manifesto of the Czar Nicholas is a communion which embraces about seventy million of souls, under rather less than three hundred bishops. There are five patriarchs; that of Alexandria, once the first in dignity, has now only 5,000; the most recent, that of Russia, has, per-

haps, fifty millions; that of Antioch, 50,000; and that of Jerusalem 25,000. Six languages are used in the services of the church, on a large scale. In the Turkish empire, the hierarchy of the communion are jealously controlled by an infidel power, and cannot proselytize, nor even educate freely their own people.

THE QUEEN AND THE ITALIAN BOY.—An instance of her Majesty's kindness of heart evinced itself on Tuesday at the Windsor station of the south-Western Railway. The Queen travelled from London in private on the day in question, to see her children; formalities were dispensed with, and her Majesty's arrival at Windsor was witnessed only by a few persons who happened to be strolling about. Among them stood a poor Italian with his rude frame of images upon his head. The fine expressive countenance of the lad was observed by the quick eye of the Queen, and she beckoned the youth to follow her, which he did to the vestibule of the station. The boy hurried to the porch, with his images upon his head, when one of the officers present seeing his confused state, assisted in bringing him and his board of images to the Sovereign. With that benignant smile so peculiar to the Queen she gazed for a moment upon the youth, and then selected from his little stock the infant Daniel praying, a Venus, and the lady at the bath. After liberally rewarding the little vender of the fine arts, the Queen had her purchases placed in the train, in which her Majesty in a few minutes afterwards took her departure.

VARIOUS ITEMS.

The total number of visitors at the New York Crystal Palace the first week, was 26,114, or 4352 per diem. Amount of money received at the door was \$8,147.

Capital punishment has been abolished by the Legislature of Wisconsin, and imprisonment for life substituted.

An insane woman named Mrs. Kerby, some time ago, threw herself from a window in the Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh, and the shock of the fall has had the effect of restoring her to reason.

DESTRUCTION OF THE 'CRITTER.'—Gen. Constable Day, by authority, emptied into the street, on Tuesday last, 289 gallons of forfeited liquors, rum, gin, brandy and beer. On the same day Constable Perry poured out 130 gallons of rum.—*Rockland (Me.) Gazette.*

WHAT IS LAW LIKE?—Law is like a country-dance—people are led up and down until they are fairly tired out. Law is like a book of surgery—there are a great many uncommon cases in it. It is like physic, too—they who take the least of it are the best off. Law is like a new fashion—people are bewitched to get into it; and, like bad weather, most people are glad to get out of it.

RUST.—In consequence of the long and severe drought in this section, the rust has struck many fields of potatoes, and the crop must be very light.—*Bath Times.*

ARREST OF A MURDERER.—A man named Gulliver was arrested at Houlton, Me., on Monday, for the murder of a Mr. Cogswell, said to have been committed two years since, while making shingles some where in that vicinity. The Bangor Mercury states that Mr. Gulliver boarded in the family of Mr. Cogswell, and Mrs. Cogswell, it is said, became more interested in Gulliver than in her husband, which instigated the murder.

CRIME IN NEW YORK.—It is stated that the number of arrests in the city of New York, for offences upon the person, during the last year, was 5,468; while in England and Wales, including all the large cities of both, the number of commitments for the same class of offenders, was only 2,000. The arrests for murder alone, in New York, during 1852, were thirty-six; in all England and Wales, the convictions were but sixteen.

A SUBLIME REPLY.—A pupil of the Deaf and Dumb school at Paris being asked, "What is eternity?" immediately replied, "The lifetime of the Almighty."

INROADS UPON THE SABBATH.—The Freeman's Journal of New York, the organ of the Roman Catholic Archbishop, is to be published as a semi-weekly paper, to appear on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.

THE DRAM-SHOP.—An article in an Edinburgh journal says that in 40 cities and towns of Scotland, every 149 of the population support a dram-shop; while it requires 981 to keep a baker, 1,067 to support a butcher, and 2,281 to support a bookseller.

THE SABBATH RESPECTED.—A strong attempt has recently been made to have the new Crystal Palace near London, kept open on the Sabbath; but with all the influence of the press, which was employed very largely in its favor, and of large public meetings, the number of petitioners in favour of this new form of Sabbath desecration was only 12,000, while those who petitioned against it exceeded 120,000. The idea is now abandoned.