

MISCELLANEOUS.

STATE CONFERENCES OF RELIGION.

The Churches of the State of New York have set the good example of holding state conferences of religion based upon the idea on which the Religious Parliament of Chicago was held in 1893. The signers of the call include seven heads of educational institutions of note; and leading Presbyterian, Episcopalian, and Unitarian ministers. The plan has received considerable support in the religious press of almost all denominations, and only *The Christian Advocate* condemns it as unchristian. Its editor seems to misconstrue the principle of the Religious Parliament whose aim is not to set aside dogma by a surrender of doctrine, but to bring together people of different beliefs in a spirit of good will and brotherly love. If the state conferences of religion are carried out in the spirit of the Religious Parliament, there is no danger that these meetings will demoralise and disintegrate the evangelical denominations. The call expressly states that men can "reverence each other's reverence, without closely sharing each other's doctrinal beliefs, and without disloyalty to the truth as they individually see it; and that, while differences in belief are to be frankly declared, there is truth to be learned from, as well as truth to be offered to, neighbors, and that a great deal of good, now undone in the world, waits for the hour when the churches shall join hands in a new brotherhood."

A BOON FOR STUDENTS OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.

There is scarcely ground for complaint that classic German texts have not been accessible in cheap and handy editions. The handsome volumes of the *Cotta Bibliothek der Weltliteratur* at one mark (25 cents) are marvels. But the *Sammlung Göschen*,¹ some volumes of which lie before us, has certain advantages which especially commend it to those interested in the subjects included. The volumes are very tastily bound in flexible covers, and are of a size convenient for an overcoat, or even a sack coat, pocket. The publisher's price of 80 pfennigs makes it possible to deliver them in America at 25 cents, or even less in quantities.

Moreover, the *Sammlung Göschen* includes many subjects not represented in other collections. Reference was made in the March *Open Court* to the handbooks of various physical and mathematical sciences. Within the field of philology the publishers have not limited their collection to reprints of literary masterpieces but have wisely included the necessary apparatus for introduction to these works. So we have a volume of selections from Old High German literature, accompanied

¹ Address G. J. Göschen'sche Verlag, Leipsic, Germany.