

forgotten that serious wrongs, amongst which may be mentioned the dismembered state of the Presbyterian Church, have flowed from the same source.

SABBATH LIQUOR BILL.—Mr. Forbes McKenzie's bill for regulating the traffic in intoxicating liquors and arresting that disgusting blot on the morality of Scotland, the Sabbath liquor trade, has passed.

PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL AT NICE.—Nice is becoming as Protestant as Geneva. The Protestants have so availed themselves of the liberty of worship granted by statute that they have no less than seven ministers and six public schools. Many Roman Catholics have embraced the Gospel.

THE SABBATH AND THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—It has for some time been generally known that Mr. Mayhew, who was indirectly employed by the Crystal Palace Company to agitate the working classes in favor of the opening of the Palace on the Sabbath, has been, and still is in prison for debt. Perhaps the least sorrowful of Mr. Mayhew's friends was Mr. Newton, who succeeded Mr. M. in office, but who for many weeks has been completely lost sight of. He has at last appeared as a petitioner at the Insolvent Debtor's Court to be liberated from prison on bail. Readers may draw their own inference as to the fate of this godless movement.—*Eng. Pres.*

PROVINCIAL PENITENTIARY.—The Annual Report of the Inspectors has just been published. The Report is, on the whole, satisfactory as to the finances, the proceeds being nearly equal to the expenses. One of the inspectors, Dr. Nelson, finds fault with the amount of secular and religious instruction given to the prisoners through the exertions of the Protestant chaplain. If the reformation of the offender be, as we have always believed, an important object to be aimed at in every system of punishment, the ground on which Dr. Nelson complains is certainly singular. The government, we trust, will not adopt his views.

THE COMET.—For some time the attention of people generally was attracted by a comet in the N. N. W. portion of the heavens, about twenty degrees above the horizon, its nucleus about the size of Jupiter, and having a well-defined tail about two degrees in extent. It has not been exactly identified with any previous comet. But it has been conjectured that it may be the comet of long period looked for by Hind in 1858.

ELGIN ASSOCIATION.—The Annual General Meeting of the Elgin Association was held on the evening of Thursday, 8th ult. The Report was of a highly satisfactory nature. The thanks of the meeting were given to the Rev. Mr. King, for the services rendered by him to the Association.

MISSIONS OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

INDIA.—By the last number of the *Home and Foreign Record*, we learn that Messrs Milne and Gardiner had safely arrived at Calcutta, the scene of their future labours. They have entered on the important duties of their respective spheres. And in a letter from Mr. Gardiner, dated 15th June, there is the pleasing intelligence of the baptism of three converts, one of them a Bengalee Brahmin. At Bombay also a young man, belonging to the class of *Narathis*, had been admitted into the Christian church. In giving an account of this event, the Rev. J. M. Mitchell says, "I venture to hope that an important change has been taking place for some time in the feelings of the young educated natives towards Christianity. Of the sneers and ridicule that accom-

panied public baptisms on former occasions—of the fierce and bitter hatred that have sometimes appeared, I may say we saw nothing; and never, perhaps, did I address a more solemn audience—seldom one that seemed more intelligently to follow the entire service than on the evening in question. The sympathies of many of the young men present were with the confessor of Jesus Christ. "We felt," said a young man next day, "that if we had been asked to receive baptism on the spot we could not have refused."

MISSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND.

Various stations are occupied by the Missionaries of the Irish Presbyterian Church, both among the heathens and among the Jews; and while these Missions have not been exempt from some severe trials, they have been owned and blessed of God for the conversion of souls. We give the following extracts from the Reports presented at the recent meeting of the General Assembly:—

MISSIONS IN INDIA.

Rajkote thus comes first. It was the place where our missionaries first obtained a settled residence, and, with the exception of a few months, it has been permanently occupied for the last thirteen years. It is well furnished with suitable buildings, as well for the accommodation of the mission families as for conducting the public duties of teaching and preaching, which have been entrusted to them. It continues to be a place of much importance, although the population is not large, on account of its central position in the province, and its constant occupation as the principal military station. The mission has been highly estimated at all times, and greatly assisted by the military, while a field of extensive usefulness has been thus opened to it. At present two of the British officers, long stationed there, are in this country, and their reports of the conduct of the missionaries and the efficiency of the mission are most encouraging.

Poorbunder, on the west coast of the province, was occupied for a short time at the beginning of the mission. There its first-fruits were gathered, in the conversion of the Munshi Abdur Rahman and all his family—and not only of his own family, but of his father, and his brother, and eventually of his brother's family. This whole connection has continued to be faithful and consistent, and highly serviceable to the mission. An eminent missionary in India, of another church, has testified that he has seen few families in India more truly Christian than that of the Munshi.

Gogo was early fixed upon as the most fitting station on the east coast of the province. The Rev. Messrs. Wallace and McKee have been enabled to continue, with some interruptions, at their post there. The health of Mr. McKee and his family has compelled him more than once to retire for a season to the Mahalabashwar hills. Both he and Mr. Wallace have also done what they could to aid their brethren who were solitary at the other stations. Still the work of their station has been efficiently maintained. It was long before they saw fruit; but at length a case of most interesting and decided conversion was granted for their encouragement. Others have since followed. They have now some native converts, who are able to render valuable help in the labours of the mission when they are unavoidably absent. Their schools have been well sustained. Considerable pecuniary assistance has been given to them by friends to the cause throughout the province, so that they have

been kept free of embarrassment. Extensive itineraries have been performed by both Mr. McKee and Mr. Wallace. They have travelled hundreds of miles, and spent months in this most important evangelistic work. During their absence, the schools, containing about 150 pupils, were taught by competent teachers, whose services they had engaged. On the whole, the work has been sustained at this station as to call forth thanksgiving and encouragement.

JEWISH MISSIONS.

The Assembly's Jewish missionaries have had an open door both to Jews and Gentiles in each of their stations throughout the year. No breach has been made in any of their families by death, and those who are now in the field have had their labours but little interrupted, either by sickness or any other cause, since last Assembly. The Directors consider the past year to have been the one of most abundant labour and greatest encouragement since the commencement of the mission.

At the request of the Directors, Mr. Robson, after nearly nine years of labour and trial in Syria, has returned for a short period to his native land. He arrived in May last, and was enabled to visit four of the Synods of the Assembly, and has since been engaged in preaching and addressing public meetings, at the request of his brethren.

The Directors, in February last, appointed Mr. Adolphus Saphir to be a labourer in the Jewish mission-field. Mr. Saphir is of the seed of Abraham, originally a native of Pesth, in Hungary, where he was brought to the knowledge of the truth through the labours of the missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland. With the view of entering the ministry, he has completed his classical and philosophical studies, partly in Germany, and during three sessions in Scotland, and has attended the Divinity Hall of the Free Church in Edinburgh two sessions. The names of his father and mother are familiar to all who are acquainted with the history of the Free Church Mission in Pesth. Mr. Saphir has, in the meantime, by appointment of the Directors, joined Dr. Craig in Hamburg.

DAMASCUS.

In May 1852, as noticed in our last report, the Lord's Supper was administered for the first time, in the vernacular language, by the missionaries in Damascus.

On the 15th of May last, ten native converts sat down with the missionaries at the Lord's table; one of these was from Beyrout, a communicant of the mission church there; another was from Hasbeiyah, and has been more than a year a resident in Damascus. Two members of the Church were prevented from being present. The missionaries had two new applicants for admission, who have been regular in attending their public services for a considerable time. As on the former occasion, the greatest care was used in dealing with the candidates in private, and they found them to have clear views of Scripture truth, and exalted sentiments in regard to Christian piety. They believe them not only to have been taught by man, but by the Spirit of God.

HAMBURG.

During the past year, thirty-four new members have been added to the Mission Church in Hamburg. Its numbers have been, on the other hand, reduced by death, by emigration, and also by the exercise of Church discipline, so that the present number of communicants is one hundred and ten. The number of baptisms has been four. The new communicants may be arranged in two classes. First, those who for many years, perhaps from youth, have admitted the truth of the Gospel. The change which has passed over them consists in realising eternal life as a present enjoyment as well as a future bliss, and which is more important still, in regarding heaven and all its joys only as a fruit of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not