

you may be all unaware of its consequences. You may lie down in the lap of your indulgence, and say within your heart, when it is over, I shall go forth as at other times. But your momentary gratification is the price you have accepted for your birthright, and for this small return you have sold it away. In this instant your Great Judge looks on you, He looks through you, and He sees that it is the turning point of your everlasting history. Alas! for how small a price are men thus bartering away the birthright of their soul. For a few days being thought well of, by their fellow men, they are selling that interest in divine mercy which would make them happy to all eternity. Yes, for a few moments' enjoyment of sinful pleasure, they are grieving the Spirit, wounding their consciences, and parting with everlasting joys. A voice from Heaven cries, Beware, O man, of this profane exchange! It is an act of crime or guilt in God's sight, and when the bargain is closed it can never be recalled.

Dunse, Scotland.

W. R.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY.

BY THE REV. DR. FERRIER, CALEDONIA.

Soon after the Canadian Mission was commenced it was found so great an interest had been excited in missionary work, that the funds of the church enabled the Synod to contemplate an extension of their labors to other fields. The Synod, therefore, in 1834, after the auspicious revolution in the condition of the West Indian Slaves, who in consequence of an Act of the British Legislature, which set them free, turned its attention in particular to the Islands of Jamaica and Trinidad, as affording favorable openings for missionary enterprise, and they resolved to employ measures for sending out missionaries in that direction. But as the sustaining of missionaries in these Islands would be attended with considerable expense, they would scarcely have undertaken this mission unless some of the wealthier congregations had engaged, each, to bear the expense of one missionary, under the sanction of the Synod, it being understood that these congregations would have the privilege of making suggestions as to the agents to be employed, and the fields of operation.

Thus encouraged, however, in 1835, the Synod sent four missionaries to the West Indies, namely, to Jamaica, the Rev. James Paterson, of Auchtermavon, supported by the Broughton Place Congregation, Edinburgh; Mr. William Niven, supported by the Presbytery of Stirling and Falkirk, and Mr. Peter Anderson, supported by Regent Place Congregation, Glasgow: and to Trinidad, Mr. Alexander Kennedy, supported by Grey-Friars Congregation, Glasgow. In the beginning of 1837 other two were sent to Jamaica, Mr. William Jameson, supported by Rose Street Congregation, Edinburgh, and Mr. James Niven, supported by the general funds of the Synod.

From time to time these missions were re-enforced. The Trinidad Mission was ably conducted for a period of fourteen years by Mr. Kennedy, when, from impaired health, he left that field, and came to Canada, where, in the good providence of God, having recruited in bodily vigour, he has been since laboring among us with much acceptance and efficiency. He is now settled at Dunbarton, where we trust his labors will be eminently blessed. His place in Trinidad is now supplied by the Rev. Mr. Brodie, and at least another minister. The wider field of Jamaica has proved a very successful mission. The Church there has now augmented into a Synod of, we believe, nearly thirty ministers, forming at least three distinct Presbyteries.

Other foreign fields for missionary operations were, from time to time, embraced by the United Secession Church,—as France, Germany, Persia, Australia, &c.; and, besides, assistance was cheerfully and liberally rendered to