

committee is by order of synod directed specially to the raising of the capital fund. We are happy to say that they have met with such encouragement as to leave no doubt of the success of the scheme. The committee hope to be able to report to synod, not only that the sum of £1000 have been realized, but that when the whole church shall have been canvassed, double that amount may be expected. In this case the amount of the annual subscriptions may be diminished, or more probably the amount of the annuities payable to widows will be increased.

Having thus expounded the synod's scheme we do not feel it necessary to make any appeal on its behalf. We are satisfied that the object must so commend itself to the judgment and principle of Christian men and women throughout the church, as to render any arguments for its support unnecessary. We leave the whole subject therefore in their hands, merely reminding them of the words of inspiration. "A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widow is God in his holy habitation." "Judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the father is this, To visit the fatherless and widow in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

May the God of the fatherless and widow bless this effort unto his own glory and the relief of many of his dependent children.

PROPOSED JEWISH MISSION.

OFFER OF A MISSIONARY.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Foreign Missions, two letters were submitted to their consideration from Mr. Edward McCurdy, one of our students now finishing his theological curriculum in Scotland.—While the Board felt they had no power to accept of his proffered services, as a missionary to the Jews; they could not take upon them the responsibility of rejecting, what the Church when properly informed might approve and sustain. It was therefore ordered that the whole matter be referred to

Synod at its ensuing meeting, and that meanwhile the attention of the Church at large, be invited to a serious consideration thereof, by the publication of these letters. I forward them accordingly with confidence that you will give them as early an insertion in the *Record*, as your space will admit. I shall only add that whatever be the result, Mr. McCurdy will receive from all who know him the highest credit for sincerity, and devotedness to the cause of missions, and certainly all your readers will readily acknowledge the ability, zeal and tact with which he has presented to their view an aspect of the missionary enterprise which confessedly, has received, hitherto, very inadequate consideration from the Christian Church. The thorough manner in which the question is treated in these letters, sufficiently proves that the author has given to it the most serious study, and that he possesses in no ordinary degree, those qualifications which are so desirable in all missionary agency.

Yours etc.,

JAMES BAYNE, Sec.

3 Saunders Street, Edinburgh,

Nov. 12, 1863.

DEAR SIR,—

To come at once to the point, I write you as Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of our Church, and my letter will therefore assume an entirely business aspect. I will endeavour then as best I can, to communicate to you some of the thoughts which have been occupying my mind, and the conclusions at which I have arrived, respecting the sphere in which it appears to me I ought to labour in the work of the Lord.

It is now about eight years since I commenced my studies with a view to the ministry. During that time I have been endeavouring to gain knowledge as rapidly as possible, that I might be fitted for proclaiming to my fellow men the unspeakable riches of Christ. I have just entered upon, what, I suppose will be my last term, at the Divinity Hall. In about five months, if spared, I shall have completed my curriculum, and if the Presbytery think me qualified, they will probably license me to preach the everlasting gospel. Placed in these circumstances it is of course natural to inquire, In what sphere of labour shall I spend the remainder of my life? Nor is this the first time that the question has pressed itself upon my attention. From the commencement of my studies I knew that if God should count me faithful, putting me into the min-