

strained to decline applications which would otherwise have been sustained. In other instances, and these by far the most numerous, they have, for the like cause, been necessitated to restrict their grants to the lowest possible amount; and the necessity thus imposed upon them has given rise to the most poignant regret. No Christian association can point to a more energetic, faithful, and devoted band, than the ministers and missionaries who now occupy the chapels and preaching stations in connexion with the Home Mission. The fruits of their ministrations are everywhere seen, and most thankfully appreciated by those among whom they officiate. Most gratifying would it be to the Committee to have it in their power, not only to extend the operations of the Scheme, but to afford more adequate and well-merited salaries to this class of spiritual labourers.

India Mission.

At no period of its history did the India Mission of the Church of Scotland more urgently require, or more amply justify the Christian sympathy and support of a united people. Acting under no other sanction than that of Him who hath said, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations," it has, by its faithful and assiduous agency in the three great Presidencies of Hindustan, commended itself to all who are interested in the progress of the Redeemer's kingdom, and now only awaits an increased measure of support to occupy other stations, and to establish itself upon new ground. Some of these inviting fields of labour were noticed in the last Report to the General Assembly; and others might be added, fitted, in no small degree, to quicken the zeal, and to provoke the liberality of the Church. But it is enough to remember that, compared with the fearful mass of destitution in India, our efforts, at best, have been but the day of small things; and that not till the Churches of Great Britain have awoken to a higher sense of the responsibility under which their country lies, in the acquisition of a territory so vast and degraded, may we expect that blessing from above under which the visions of prophecy shall be realized in all their fulness. "Lift up thine eyes round about, and see; all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord."

To the members of our own Church, in particular, India cannot fail to prove the most inviting field of Christian enterprise. If it may be said of Scotland, that her sons, more than others in other parts of the kingdom, have laid India under tribute to their affluence or ease, it is also a matter of congratulation, that the Church of our fathers has not been behind on the great career of Christian duty. Her India Mission meets us on the threshold of all her other schemes of enlightened benevolence. It has now existed for about a quarter of a century; and manifold have been the blessings it has served to diffuse. If it were presumptuous in us

to say, that through her instrumentality alone the whole aspect of society has been changed,—that unholy rites have been abolished, the growth of centuries,—that new laws and institutions have sprung up, giving token of better days and of brighter hopes,—that the iron rule of caste is undergoing a revolution that is the forerunner of its destruction, it were not less wrong in us to disclaim the share she has been privileged to take, under the blessing of God, in this glorious work. In her crowded schools, she has given proof, that in the very grossest forms of idolatry there is no inseparable barrier between the heathen and us,—that no compulsion is necessary to bring them within the range of Christian instruction,—and that by no system of accommodation, and far less of compromise, may these sons of the stranger be assailed with all the appeals and appliances of the Gospel. A highway hath thus been opened, in which other churches and missionary associations are hastening to tread; while everything concurs to cherish the expectation, that the day is at hand when, through the extensive diffusion of Gospel truth, prevailing all castes and classes in the community, proclaimed on the streets, and taught in the school, the superstition of India shall receive its death-blow, and myriads of immortal beings, the subjects of the same Government, shall own their allegiance to the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

No less gratifying is it to think, that with an increasing measure of usefulness abroad, our India Mission has now the advantage of increasing zeal and liberality at home. While the Committee have been encouraged by a larger amount of contributions, through church collections and parochial subscriptions, than they were wont to receive, they have the peculiar satisfaction of reporting to the Church, that an Act was passed by the last General Assembly giving new facilities to the enlargement and usefulness of our missionary force. At all the Presidencies authority has been given for the erection of presbyterial bodies, with full powers, under certain necessary limitations, of granting license and ordination to such Europeans and natives as may duly approve themselves, by their piety and qualifications, fitted to proclaim to the heathen the unsearchable riches of grace. The importance of this measure cannot be over-estimated. Already are there some in India prepared to take advantage of this measure; and the anticipation may be cherished, that, in the course of a few years, many will offer themselves for license and ordination on the inviting field of Christian labour. Everything, indeed, concurs to animate and encourage us in the great work in which we are engaged. It is full of promise to every devout and benevolent mind; and now we desire to commend it to the charities and sympathies of an enlightened people, who, favoured themselves with privileges the most valuable, and advantages the most distinguishing, cannot enjoy a higher honor, in the sight of angels and men, than in being permitted to further, by their substance and prayers, the kingdom of our God and of His Christ.

MODERATORSHIP OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.—We understand that the Rev. Dr. Bell, Minister of Linlithgow, will be proposed as Moderator of the ensuing General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Extracts from the General Assembly's Report on Sabbath Schools.

It was recommended by the last General Assembly, that every synod should appoint a committee on Sabbath schools, in order that answers to a list of questions, relative to the condition of these schools, might be obtained, and transmitted to the Convener of the General Assembly's Committee on or before the 1st of May 1851. From some delay in issuing the questions, and other causes, returns from all the synods have not been obtained; but the Committee are able to report, that they have received very complete returns from the Synods of Dumfries; of Angus and Mearns, of Glasgow and Ayr; and of Perth and Strling; together with an abstract from the Synod of Ross; and a very full abstract, so far as returns had been made, from the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale; and a report as to some portion of the Synod of Aberdeen. From other synods returns and abstracts have been received; but they have not reached the Convener so early as to permit of particular notice in the general Report.*

As returns have not been received from many synods, it is impossible to state precisely the number of Sabbath schools connected with the Church; but the Committee would refer to the abstract of statistical information reported in the General Assembly in May 1851, from which it appears that, out of 1100 parishes, returns were received from 617, containing 1059 Sabbath schools in connexion with the Church; there being thus 483 parishes from which no reports were received. By the Report presented to the General Assembly last year, it appeared that circulars containing questions were addressed to 1173 parish churches and chapels, and that returns were received from 621, having 1155 Sabbath schools connected with the Church.

The reports from the synods convey no information respecting the manner in which Sabbath schools are conducted, materially different from that supplied by former returns. There are selections of lessons and of hymns, with other helps; but the books chiefly used are the bible and the Shorter Catechism. The Committee entertain the belief, that these are, in all respects, most suitable, seeing that the efforts of the Sabbath school teacher must be chiefly directed to the work of making his pupils familiar with the meaning of the Word of God, and the system of doctrine contained in the standards of the Church, while endeavouring to bring them under the influence of the truth as that by which the heart and life ought ever to be regulated.

The qualifications of Sabbath school teachers—the difficulty of finding such as are thoroughly furnished for this work—the great responsibility incurred by them—and the motives by which they ought to be impelled—have been treated so fully in former reports, that it is unnecessary to repeat the views which the Committee have advanced, and from which they see no reason for departing. That the work is difficult and important, must be universally admitted Agents for

* Among these may be mentioned a report from the Synod of Galloway, carefully prepared; and returns from presbyteries in the synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, together with an abstract of the whole Sabbath schools in that synod.

The Committee would also notice, in terms of warm commendation, the "Seventh Annual Report of the Glasgow Sabbath School Association in connexion with the Church of Scotland." The last of these reached them at so late a period that, in preparing their Report, they were unable to avail themselves of its valuable information.