

Now, in carrying out the spirit of the General Assembly's Deliverance on the subject of Parochial Associations, it accords well with the object which the *Home and Foreign Missionary Record of the Church of Scotland* has in view, that the professing Christians within her pale should be reminded of the claims which such associations have upon their countenance and support. How much might be done for the cause of divine truth, if every congregation within our land was to form one association each for this good work, and how incumbent is it on the members of our Church, to give to the collectors for such associations their countenance and encouragement, and to the cause which they seek to advocate, the testimony of their pecuniary aid! Why should they not as a congregation, send their mite into the treasury of the Lord? It is not much that is wanted from any. It is a little from all. They profess to be Christian; and should they not do therefore what they can for the cause of Christ? They put up the prayer that His kingdom may come; and should they be found withholding that which they would never miss, and which would help to further the progress of that cause which is His own? Many of them have said over the memorials of redeeming love, that they are united to Him who died, that He might be for salvation to all the ends of the earth; and the vows which in this respect they have taken, do but strengthen the obligation that lies upon them to do what they can to send the knowledge of the Gospel through their own country, and the world at large. How alive, therefore, ought they to be to the calls which Christ makes upon them, to engage in that great work of evangelizing the heathen in which their own Church has embarked! She has made a beginning in that work, but only a beginning. At every station already occupied, other missionaries entreating that additional hands may be furnished. Many more labourers are required. Populous regions of the earth appear ready to welcome the Gospel. Thousands of perishing souls are crying, "Come over and help us," to them—stretching out their arms and directing their eyes. And can they disregard this? Should a doubt on this head remain on the mind of any of them? Let their exertions therefore be renewed,—let their contributions be increased. In the strength of the Lord let them determine to persevere, and to abound more and more! and then, having already reaped some little harvest in the cause in which the Church is embarked, they may be confident that harvests more abundant will crown their more abundant efforts.

Into this walk of usefulness, too, should they not be shamed by the conduct of the world? Principles far inferior to those by which they profess to be actuated have influenced men to explore the most distant parts of the globe. The love of knowledge, and a regard to the interests of science, have prompted the great men of the earth to extend their researches with such perseverance

and zeal, that it is imagined by some that few discoveries of any importance remain to be made. Commerce has taken advantage of their discoveries, and has extended her industrious hand with eagerness and with haste to the rudest tribes, in the most distant regions, and in the most rigorous climes. Should they not therefore be shamed, by such examples? Shall merchants, from the love of wealth, or philosophers, from a concern for the advancement of science, hold communion with the most distant nations, and shall not zeal for the cause of Christianity animate them to similar exertions? Shall the selfish wish of acquiring some temporal gain have a more powerful influence upon the men of the world, than the desire of conveying to the miserable the elements of eternal life has upon the professors of the Gospel? Ought they not rather to consider it as the design of Providence, in the extensive discoveries that have lately been made, and the facilities that have been opened up for a speedier intercourse between nations the most remote, that Christians may have the opportunity of calling forth into action the noblest part of brotherly love, and that they may have the honour of enlightening the dark places of the earth with the knowledge of the truth?

And how great and enduring must this honour be! The honour which comes from man confers but a limited distinction, and is known to but a few; but if men be fellow-workers with Christ in promoting the interests of His kingdom, they shall be honoured before an assembled world, when the Judge shall set the crown upon their head. The honours which the world confers terminate all in death, theirs, again, shall endure for ever; and if they hold in right estimation the most exalted honours which a creature can possibly receive, then they will undoubtedly seek them in diffusing the savour of the Redeemer's name, among the nations upon which the glory of the Lord hath never yet shone, and which the glad tidings of salvation have never yet reached; for thus speaks the word of inspiration, "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever."

Synod of Merse and Teviotdale.

The half-yearly meeting of the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale was held in the Parish Church of Kelso, on Tuesday Sept. 23rd. The Rev. Mr. Somerville of St. Boswells, preached an excellent sermon, from Matthew xi. 12.

Dr. Stevenson of Ladykirk was unanimously elected Moderator.

ENDOWMENT OF PARISHES.

MR. MURRAY (Melrose), moved an overture to the effect, that whereas several additional parishes are required for the proper dispensation of the Ordinances, and for the advancement of the interests of the Church throughout the country, and as the Endow-

ment Schemes of the Church offers the best means of attaining this object, the Synod directs the Presbyteries within their bounds to bring this matter under the consideration of the members, in order that the best means may be devised of calling out the liberality of the people in behalf of the scheme. Mr. Murray supported the overture in a brief speech, in the course of which he stated that, within the last ten years, no less than thirty parishes had been added to the Establishment, but double that number were required to meet the wants of the country in this matter. It was, therefore, of the greatest importance that the Committee, and particularly the respected Convener of the Endowment Scheme, should be strengthened and encouraged in the grand work to which they had set their hands. It was with this object that he proposed the overture.

MR. SMITH, Lauder, seconded the adoption of the overture.

The overture was adopted; and, on the motion of Mr. Phin, it was agreed to hold the next meeting of Synod at Kelso. The proceedings were then closed by the benediction.

The Synod then adjourned.

Synod of Dumfries.

The Provincial Synod of Dumfries met there on the 16th Oct. when the retiring Moderator, the Rev. John Donaldson of Kirkcubright, preached an excellent and appropriate discourse. The Rev. William Burnet of Half Morton was elected Moderator for the ensuing half-year, and took the chair accordingly.

Mr. Murray of Morton, after a few remarks as to the duty of the Church in regard to the parochial Schoolmasters, moved the presentation of the following memorial to the Right Hon. the Lord Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, on behalf of that useful body:—

"That the System of parochial education which has long prevailed in Scotland is highly valued by its inhabitants, and has been productive of the most beneficial effects on the character and morals of the people in both past and present times.

"That the teachers of our parish schools, always inadequately recompensed for their acquirements, labours, and services, are at this time threatened with a farther reduction of their scanty emoluments, through the expiry of those Acts of Parliament by which they have recently been regulated.

"That the effect of such reduction must be to lower their position in society, diminish their comforts, and abate the measure of their useful services to the community.

"That your Lordships' memorialists indulge a hope that the munificence of Government will be extended to this deserving class of men, so as at least to maintain them in the position they have hitherto occupied till some more permanent provision be made for the improvement of their condition and amelioration of their circumstances.