

member of the Bar, has been the instrument of a work of conversion and revival. He has secured the sympathy of the neighbouring ministers, visits from house to house, and holds meetings for exhorting the people. It appears to be the desire of Mr. North and Mr. Furlong to aid the ministers of the Gospel in their respective neighbourhoods in every way in their power. They have lately been holding joint meetings in Forfarshire, and have obtained the use of the churches of several denominations.—*News of the Churches.*

#### EDINBURGH RAGGED SCHOOL SOIREE.

At the annual meeting of the Edinburgh Original Ragged School Association, the Rev. Dr. Guthrie gave the following account of a social meeting of former attenders of the school:—

“We had a meeting at that time in the Ragged Schools, and I will tell you what I saw there as well as I can. It was the fashion at that time to give banquets. You had then constituents dining their representative in the House of Commons; then, you know, the people of Edinburgh publicly did honour to the brave men who fought our battles so gallantly in the Crimea. Well, then, we thought that we would be in the fashion, and that we would have a banquet too. There was no reason why we should not have one; and the guests we invited were boys and girls who had as hard a battle to fight as ever was fought in the Crimea. Our guests had been trained in a school of God, of virtue, honesty and industry, and were now standing on their own feet, and fighting their own battle gallantly and openly before men. I have been in high society; but I was never in society that delighted me so much as on the occasion I refer to. On that occasion we certainly could not assemble all; for we had some in Canada, some in the United States, some in Australia, some in New Zealand, some in England, some in Ireland, and we had many scattered over the various parts of Scotland; some of them respectable tradesmen in provincial towns, and some of them, with a gray plaid above an honest heart, feeding their flocks on our native mountains. Our light has gone throughout the whole world, and we could not collect it all into so small a focus as this. We resolved, however, to assemble all whom we might find in the city of Edinburgh who had been ragged children in our schools, and who were now respectable members of society. Cards were accordingly issued, for we did the thing politely. The hall was lighted and heated; ivy, flowers, and evergreens, decorated the walls; and the tables were furnished with coffee, tea, cookies, and buns. The party assembled in the low room of the building and by and by the hour arrived when it became the duty of your humble servant, as head of the house, to receive the company at the door. We now heard the tramp of feet on the stairs, and the stream began to set in. When the men of Bethlehem saw a broken-hearted and bereaved widow, who some years before had left the city in affluence and comfort, with her husband at her side, and two gallant sons at her back, return with no friend on earth but a young Moabitess, they could hardly believe their eyes, and cried, in wonder and pity—Is this Naomi? And for an opposite reason, ladies and gentlemen, when I saw this stream come in of respectable, well-attired, decent-looking young men and women—some of them were married, and the wives brought their husbands, and the husbands their wives—all well dressed, some of them genteelly, rather better than myself—all bright and happy, earning wages, from the apprentice with his three shillings a week, up to the grown man with his one and thirty shillings a week—when I saw them I was ready to hold up my hands and exclaim—“Are these the ragged school children?” and from the fulness of a willing and grateful heart to say, “Well, the Lord hath done great things for us, whereof I am glad.” I wish you had all been there, and had seen the happy faces of that night. I never saw such a happy company. It was the largest party I ever sat down at; there were as many as 150 of those who had been at our schools in Edinburgh, and how many there are in other places I don't know. And how joyous and glad they were? Talk of drink and excitement! There was nothing but coffee and tea, but I never saw a party in such a state of joyous excitement as they were. Oh! there was a merry ring in their laugh—they laughed so heartily and I may add—and no blame to them, for they were young and well-behaved, conducting themselves with a propriety that would have done credit to any com-