

in the midst of many adversaries. The noble collection of L.400 by our students, during the past year, proves the deep interest that is felt in their cause by those who are to be our future ministers, and reflects credit on their own energy and zeal. The committee reported the opening of correspondence with the Free Church of the Canton de Vaud. This was originated by a letter addressed to the Convener, received from the Rev. Charles Scholl of Lausanne; and dated 5th of March last, of which the following is an extract:—"Our Free Church of the Canton de Vaud has received, in its beginnings and troubled times, several testimonies of sympathy and brotherly regard from the United Presbyterian Church, or at least from the churches that have united to form it. Members and ministers of your churches took part also in those meetings that were held in Edinburgh and Glasgow on our behalf. Under such circumstances, and having resolved to invite the Free Church of Scotland to favour us with a deputy at our next Synod, we hope we are not presuming too much in addressing the same communication to the United Presbyterian Church through your instrumentality. It will be a real pleasure for us, if your Church can comply with our request. Such meetings do good. They are encouraging, and we have much to learn and to receive from more experienced Christians and churches than ourselves. Therefore, in the hope that you may favour us with a visit, we inform your Church through you, that our Synod is to meet (*D. V.*) at Vevay, near Lausanne, on Tuesday, 12th May." Had the interval between the meeting of Synod and that of the Free Church of the Canton de Vaud been longer the committee would have left the arrangement to be made by this Court. But in the circumstances such delay would have been equivalent to a refusal of their request, and Providence appeared to dictate a course which all would approve. An esteemed minister of our denomination, who enjoys the respect of the whole Synod, the Rev Dr Crichton of Liverpool, was known to be temporarily resident not far from Lausanne, and was requested to act as our deputy, more especially as the committee were assured that he would not only faithfully represent us, but that the appointment as a testimony that he was remembered by his brethren, would not be ungrateful to

his own feelings. And as it was understood that Messrs John Robson and John Mitchell Harvey, students of our Church, were at present pursuing their studies at Geneva, these young brethren were requested to associate themselves with Dr Crichton on this occasion. During the past twelve months, somewhat more than L.2200 had passed through the hands of the Synod's treasurer for the cause of evangelisation on the Continent.

The Synod was then addressed by the Rev F Monod of Paris, Rev E. Filhol, M. La Harpe of Geneva, and M. De Liefde of Amsterdam, after which the report of the Committee was adopted.

#### AID FROM THE MISSION FUNDS.

Dr SOMERVILLE asked authority to give, from the mission funds, to the Evangelical Society of Geneva, the sum of L.200, to enable that Society to carry on a mission at St Onge, in South-west France. Mr Verrue, who laboured there was a very zealous and devoted man. He went to that place, where there was a very large Protestant population of about 40,000, and accessible to him was a population of about 6000. When he went there the place was utterly dead. Now, he had five Sabbath schools, attended by 500 children, five day schools, and three infant schools, attended by 500 children, and a normal school, attended by 22 young men and women; and he had now regularly attending the worship of God about 1000 persons on Sabbath. He felt that the work had overgrown him. He could not overtake it, and had applied to the Evangelical Society of Geneva, and they had kindly given him funds. It was the growing conviction of this Church, that they should avoid scattering its bounty, giving a little here and a little there; it was better to concentrate their efforts upon a locality that seemed to promise to work efficiently. He was persuaded that the granting of this sum to this locality would be productive of very great good.

Mr KEN of Glasgow moved the adoption of the recommendation, and in doing so bore his testimony to the growing work carried on by Mr Verrue. Mr Verrue was himself a converted Roman Catholic, and had been the means of effecting a thorough revival in that portion of the field where he laboured.

Mr THOMAS seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.