

inexpedient to take up the collection on the day appointed by the Synod, the collection should not be omitted, but taken up on the first convenient Sabbath.

It is scarcely necessary to explain the objects for which this collection is appointed. In the first place, it is for the support of the mission institution for the coloured population at Buxton. This settlement was formed between seven and eight years ago, and it has gone on until now the lands of the Elgin Association, purchased for the settlement of coloured refugees from the United States are all occupied, the number of families being two hundred. The labours of the Missionary, Mr. King, have been incessantly directed to the advancement of the best interests of his charge, and in the carrying on of these labours, he has manifested great perseverance and self-denial. An able and zealous teacher lately from Scotland, has now charge of the school, and proves a most useful and efficient fellow-labourer with Mr. King. The school is now attended by eighty scholars, a number which would be much increased were there a female teacher. The attendance at church is 200 or upwards, and the Sabbath School numbers eight teachers and 100 scholars. Some of the pupils have already become members of the church, and others give evidence of an earnest anxiety about the "one thing needful."

The annual charge on the church on account of the mission, may be stated at £250. But it would be most desirable to have funds to sustain a female teacher, and also a monitor or assistant in the school. Arrangements are now being made to make the institution self-sustaining to a greater extent than it has been in times past, and there is no doubt, under the blessing of God, of its being eventually entirely self-supporting. But this cannot be for years. Many of the settlers newly escaped from slavery have to be trained to habits of self-reliance and independence. And if the experiment is to succeed (and heretofore it has succeeded as well as the most sanguine could have expected,) the Church must, in the meantime, manifest towards it a large degree of generous sympathy and liberality. We would therefore commend this interesting object to the christian sympathy, the earnest prayers and liberal support, of the members of the church generally.

The collection now to be taken up is intended to provide also for the expenses chargeable on the Synod Fund. These are the expenses of printing the Minutes of Synod and other printing done for the Synod,—a proportion of the salary, office rent, expenses, &c., of the general Agent for the church, and expenses incurred in connection with the annual statistical statement. The whole may be stated at £250. And it must be borne in mind that on these combined funds—the Buxton Mission and Synod Funds—there is at present a debt of upwards of one hundred pounds. It is clearly the duty of all the congregations to contribute to this fund. This is only what is equitable, and were each of our 120 congregations to give

a contribution of only five pounds, the amount would answer the end in view.

We earnestly trust that each congregation will do its duty, and that our people will manifest their gratitude for God's abounding goodness, by contributing for His cause, as God may have prospered them.

#### AFFAIRS IN INDIA—CALL FOR PRAYER.

As yet no intelligence has been received of the suppression of the revolt in India. So far as we know, Delhi is still in the hands of the insurgents, while at the same time, intelligence has been received of fresh and most aggravated cruelties committed by the infuriated Sepoys on Europeans. The strongest confidence, however, is entertained, that by God's blessing the carnage and insurrection will soon be terminated, and British power continued on a firmer basis than before. Many reinforcements have been already forwarded to India, and preparations are being made for forwarding others. Some of the best generals have been cut off, more especially Sir H. Lawrence, who appears to have been a man of clear and ready judgment, and determined resolution. But others of standing and tried experience have been sent out; amongst these we may mention Sir Colin Campbell and General Windham,—both of whom highly distinguished themselves in the late war in the Crimea.

In reviewing the intelligence on the subject of India, lately received, it appears that there have been some most providential deliverances which ought to call forth most grateful acknowledgements to God for his restraining and protecting power. It appears that Benares, the sacred city of the Brahmans, containing 600,000 inhabitants, and even Calcutta, too, might have been taken and the European inhabitants cruelly massacred, but for accidental, or more properly speaking, providential circumstances. A few days before the mutiny, Benares was almost entirely destitute of European soldiers, and when the revolt actually took place, it was saved only by the extraordinary courage of only about 180 soldiers. Dr. Duff, with reference to this says, "when we think that all the British were saved from a cruel death and the city from destruction by the sudden and opportune arrival of a small company of only 180 British soldiers, with a commander animated by the spirit and energy of a Clive, the deliverance does seem markedly to be the doing of the Lord. I know nothing comparable to it except some of the miraculous deliverances recorded in the Old Testament History." In regard to Calcutta, Dr. Duff says, "a general rise was planned to take place on the 23rd June, the anniversary of the battle of Plassey. The city was to have been taken, and the 'Feringhi Kaffirs' or British and other christian inhabitants to be all massacred." As it was, the 78th Highlanders and the 64th, arrived shortly before the discovery of the plot, and the government then proceeded to disarm the native troops.

Although we may hope that the sad events which have taken place may be made to fall out even for the furtherance of the Gospel; still in the meantime, the effects on the Missionary operations of the various bodies of Christians have been most disastrous. Throughout the province of Bengal, except Calcutta itself, the missions have principally been broken up. Although we are not aware that any letter has been received very recently from Mr. Stevenson, our own Missionary, we have heard from private letters that he had been obliged to leave Bancoorah and return for a time to Calcutta. We trust the critical circumstances of our Mission, and of India, will stir up many to earnest prayer, and in this way good may result from temporary evil. We regret to learn that in some instances valuable property has been destroyed in connection with some of the Mission Stations. An exchange paper says with reference to the Missions of the General Assembly of the American Presbyterian Church:

"The missions of the Presbyterian Board, in the disturbed district, were two or three times as large as those of all other societies together, and extended from Allahabad, about 500 miles from Calcutta, as much as 800 miles north-west to Peshawar. The two principal stations were at Lodiana and Allahabad, the former being the oldest established, and the latter the largest. Each of them had printing-presses, with various fonts of type, and large stocks of books and tracts for distribution, besides libraries and the apparatus of missionary work. And now both are destroyed; the loss of property at the first being estimated at \$24,000, and in the latter at \$50,000.

"At Allahabad, when the mutiny appeared among the troops, the missionaries were removed to the fort, but after the destruction of their premises, they were all sent by the commanding general to Calcutta, as the only place where they could be accommodated. Two ladies of the English mission were seized with cholera in the fort, and died shortly after the departure of the rest. Two native christians were killed by the insurgents.

"The mission premises consisted of a very large building, which was bought from the government for a High School and College, accommodating more than 500 scholars, two Church edifices, a depository and printing house, three good dwellings for the missionaries, besides native houses for a large number of native Christians who were employed in the printing establishment. The depository was full of Bibles, books, and tracts, provided for a liberal distribution, as it was found that there was a great and growing desire for such publications among the people; and quite a number of the native Christians who were to distribute them were just beginning their work. All is destroyed, but it is a matter for thankfulness that precious lives are spared."

As to the causes of the outbreak, enough is now known to assure us that missionary zeal has not been the cause. The system of caste has, according to Sir C. J. Napier, produced more than one serious emente in the native army, and it is by no means improbable that this has been one of the leading causes of the present more serious insurrection. Dr. Duff too, refers to a native prediction to the effect that British rule in India was to be limited to a hundred years from the battle of Plassey,