

## ON CHRISTIAN MISSIONS.

We wish all our readers to understand that the Kirk in this County has Missionary Schemes which she supports, that she is not only evangelical but evangelistic. Indeed no Church has a right to the title of Church of Christ unless she patronize Missions. Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, is as much the duty of a Church as to look after her home population. The former is as much the charge of her Divine Head as the latter and if she neglect the one she is as culpable as tho she may neglect the other. There were days gone by in which this was but slightly understood or at least acted upon; the Churches of Eng and and Scotland slumbered during the last century and minded nothing but their own temporalities; but they were revived and quickened by the labours of Wesley and Whitfield, Simeon and Hill, and since this century began, every Church has vied to diffuse the Gospel abroad as well as preach it at home. The Kirk in this County has never resigned her interest in the Mission field, isolated though she be, and without Missionaries of her own, yet she claims a part in the Foreign Mission represented by Messrs. Robertson and Frazer Campbell, and last year sent a considerable sum to be expended by them in the fields of Erromanga and Madras. This is now one of the standing schemes to which all our congregations are invited to contribute aye, and on Sabbath Schools likewise. The writer has been asked to correspond with Messrs. Robertson and Campbell and to suggest the contribution of \$200 for native Catechists. Thus we would have a living Mission of our own in which all might be expected to interest themselves and to aid. For the argument that a congregation has not enough of its own on hand will not stand. Unless we water others, our own place

will bedry: it is in helping the perishing we help ourselves. Twenty-nine years ago in one of our villages a congregation of thirty members started, and every year since has contributed, to hundreds of dollars towards Missionary objects, and now it has built its new Church, is paying its venerable pastor \$1000 annually, and stand foremost among its own connection in the ranks of liberality. But this congregation struck out right from first, not selfishly or for domestic purposes merely subsisting, but for the benevolent objects Christ enjoins, and devising liberal things, by liberality stands. And similarly with some of our own congregations. It was in 1852, before a Presbytery was formed, that the writer's congregation began its first Missionary contribution, collecting for the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and the reflex benefit was felt in the congregation itself as well as services performed to the cause. "There is that giveth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth, and yet it tendeth to poverty." If a Church for example, act on the principle of merely looking after number one, or if a minister will not give his people an opportunity to contribute for Mission, one consequence he has dried up the resources of benevolence in his people and paralyzed his own right arm, and another is he has neglected to aid that cause for which the world stands. If so our congregations for their own sakes ought to invest in Missions foreign and home, and Ministers ought to call forth the benevolence both to increase the Missionary spirit within, as well as aid benevolent objects abroad; for the Missionary spirit is the spirit of Christ and a Church to fulfil her high destiny must be *evangelistic* as well as *evangelical*. H.

P. S.—In reference to the above missions, it may be mentioned that Mr. Robertson has a congregation of 500 hearers on the Sabbath, and several communicants, on blood-stained Erro-