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**Rise and Progress of Foreign Mis-
 sionary Societies.**

CONTINUED

BRITISH PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATIONS. Two Missionary Societies were formed in Scotland in 1796—one in Glasgow and the other in Edinburgh. They were called, respectively, the Glasgow, and the Scottish Missionary Societies. The latter was under the presidency of the celebrated Dr. John Erskine, who was the first to advocate the cause of foreign missions in the Church of Scotland. In that year the subject was brought under the notice of the General Assembly by overtures from the Synods of Fife and Moray. After a most extraordinary debate, the overtures were rejected by a vote of fifty-eight to forty-four. Among the opponents of missions to the heathen at that time were, Mr. George Hamilton, minister of Gladsmuir, and Dr. Carlyle, of Inveresk. The former having delivered an elaborate anti-missionary speech, when he sat down the venerable and attenuated Erskine, of whom it has been said, that "he was all soul and no body," arose: "Moderator," said he, "*rax me that Bible.*" The book was handed to him and passages were quoted to shew the missionary character of the apostle Paul's ministrations; in vain, however, was the appeal, and thirty years elapsed before the subject was resumed in that Assembly. In the meantime the above named Societies sent out pioneer missionaries to Africa, India, and the West Indies, and gradually the missionary spirit began to breathe over the Churches. In 1824, Dr. Inglis brought the subject of Foreign missions once more before the General Assembly, and with such effect that a committee was unanimously appointed to devise and report a plan of operations. This was followed by a pastoral letter to the Churches, and an appeal

for money. The whole amount contributed, was only £390 from all Scotland. About this time Dr. Chalmers gave a series of popular lectures, on the history and objects of missions, in the old University town of St. Andrews. Among those who came under the spell of his eloquence, was Alexander Duff, librarian to a small missionary society, who was selected as the fittest of all the students to undertake the founding of a mission. Having yielded to the earnest solicitation of his friends, his appointment was confirmed by the General Assembly in 1829, and shortly afterwards, he sailed for Calcutta. It is unnecessary to add that his subsequent career more than justified the expectations of his friends. By his personal labours in India, and by his eloquent appeals in Britain and America, he did perhaps more than any other man to advance the cause of modern missions. The missions of the Church of Scotland are chiefly in India, and connected with its large educational institutions at Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras. The number of ordained missionaries and principals of colleges is about twenty, with a staff of about eighty assistants. This Church has also recently began a mission in China, and one in East Africa. For many years it has carried on successful missions to the Jews in Turkey and Egypt. Its Colonial Committee was organized on its present basis in 1837. It has been the means of sending a large number of ministers and missionaries to all the British dependencies, and has spent a great deal of money in assisting to build churches and in grants to educational institutions. The expenditure on these three branches of its mission work in 1880, was \$212,445.

Shortly after the formation of *The Free Church of Scotland*, in 1843, it was announced that all the missionaries of the Established Church in India and Africa, as well as the missionaries to the Jews, had given in their