

## A MISSION TOUR IN SCOTLAND.

BY REV. A. T. PIERSON.

Dr. A. T. Pierson, late pastor of the Bethany Church, Philadelphia, who recently reigned his charge to devote the remainder of his life to the cause of Foreign Missions in the Home Field, has spent part of the winter in Scotland. Writing from Edinburgh to the *Missionary Review* he says :

"With December 31st the mission tour of Scottish churches, which has engaged my attention for more than a month, closed for the time, to be resumed in February. It is purposed to give January to London and the great centers of population in England, and then, if God will, to give two months uninterruptedly to Scotland, until at least all the main body of the population has been overtaken.

It may be generally said that the results thus far every way, so far as they can be now estimated, abundantly repay all the cost in time and toil. On Monday evening, at Airdrie, I gave the fifty-seventh address on missions since the *Etruria* landed her human cargo on the 16th of November. First, I spent between three and four days in Liverpool, of which some account was given in a previous letter. Then, on November 20th, a welcome meeting was held in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall, in Edinburgh; and from that day the meetings were held almost daily until the year closed.

The very efficient committee at Edinburgh, supported by a committee in the West of Scotland, have arranged the entire tour, at my request, so that all I have had to do has been to go where I have been sent, thus relieving me from all needless correspondence and perplexity. The arrangements have all been singularly complete. We have been met at the trains and escorted to hospitable homes; welcomed with a genuine cordiality; we have found everywhere warm hearts and exceptionally generous co-operation. The whole tour reminds me of Paul's testimony to the Galatians, who "received him as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus," "and would have plucked out their own eyes and given them to him." We have met abundant hospitality and Christian generosity elsewhere; but never any experience of loving kindness that on the whole quite equals this.

A word further ought to be added as to the way in which the meetings have been planned and conducted. The resident clergy and leading laymen and laywomen, too, have been enlisted in the movement in advance, and their cordial support secured. Then their preference for the time, hour and place

of meeting has as far as possible been consulted. The meetings have followed each other in so well ordered a scheme that there has been neither loss of time or retracing of steps. During these past thirty days there have been large and enthusiastic gatherings at Leith, Peebles, Innerleithen, Dalkeith, Haddington, Glasgow, Port Glasgow, Dumbarton, Holensburgh, Kilmarnock, Paisley, Irvine, Ayr, Greenock, Gourock, Strathaven, Bothwell, Hamilton, Wishaw, Lanark, Motherwell, Airdrie, etc., and in all cases the audiences have been large and the attention earnest and absorbed.

The plan has been connected with a few features of marked value, which might be imitated elsewhere. Afternoon meetings have been held for women especially, and addressed ordinarily by some man and woman who have been on the foreign field and were at home on a furlough. Then in the evenings, general meetings, held in the largest available church or hall, addressed generally by one of these returned missionaries and myself, and sometimes briefly by some one of the local clergy. Some man or woman has been called to preside at the respective meetings, whose name and known interest in missions gave added power to the gatherings; and the common custom of voting thanks to the speakers, which often diverts attention from the subject matter to the person bearing the message, has been happily omitted.

Scotland is a land of martyrs and missionaries, and the two naturally go together. The martyr spirit has survived the martyr fires, and so the vital energy that once made martyrs now runs into the channels of missionary enthusiasm. We go nowhere without feeling ourselves to be on holy ground. Hallowed associations make every spot sacred. At Bothwell we had to walk but a few steps along the Clyde to find ourselves confronting the mills where David Livingstone worked, and the humble home of Blantyre, where that "adventurous laddie" first saw the light. At Strathaven we were but seven miles from the battle field of Drum Clog, where Douglass led a little band of Covenanters against Graham, of Claverhouse, with the royalist troopers; and from that little town where the hand looms still produce their beautiful products, went from one house, William and Gavin Martin to India, and James Martin to Jamaica, and now Miss Martin, the sister, to Jamaica. What an outcome of one consecrated home! Five missionaries almost from one cradle! No marvel Scotland is interested in missions!

With a view to touching as many centers as was practicable, I have generally had these services on each Lord's Day, but so aided by