

education and missionary operations, and for public libraries, in the first instance, in the six western counties of Scotland, viz., county of Ayr, stewartry of Kirkcudbright, and counties of Wigton, Lanark, Renfrew, and Dumbarton, by payment for the erection or support of churches and schools in connection with the *quoad sacra* churches of the Establishment, the Free Church, the United Presbyterian Church, the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the Independent Church. For the management of this fund, the body of trustees named by the deceased is to be increased by thirteen, viz. three of the Established Church, four of the Free Church, four of the United Presbyterian Church, one of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and one of the Independent Church. The executors under the will are eleven in number, chiefly resident in Glasgow and Irvine.

With regard to the large bequest for religious and educational objects, the paramount consideration which influenced that bequest was, that the Reformed Evangelical Churches in Scotland ought to be supported, and their usefulness widened and enlarged, so as, if possible, to be the means of raising the condition of the masses of the population in the social scale. It was also present to Mr. Ferguson's mind, that what he so devised, in the first instance, for the six western counties of Scotland, might, at no distant day, by some other individual of wealth dying without a family, be done for the other counties of Scotland.—*Scotch Paper*.

CONDITION OF WOMEN IN CALABAR.

The girls in Calabar are very early betrothed. I have known girls betrothed to men old enough to be their grandfathers. As soon as one arrives at the age of thirteen or fourteen, she is set apart to undergo the process of fattening, and is compelled to retire from society, and confined to her house for twelve months, more or less. Her body is chalked over with a kind of pipe-clay, to check the sensible perspiration, and she is made to eat a certain quantity of food every day, consisting of pounded yam, palm-oil, fish, and vegetables. A matron stands by and compels her to eat, and she is punished with the rod if she refuses. She is not allowed to laugh much, and is generally kept in a dark room. It is astonishing how these poor creatures will be swollen and distended with fat in eight or nine months. Before a bride is led forth to the public exhibition, a private contract is performed between the bridegroom and bride, a goat is killed at the feet of the bride, she then dips her finger in the warm blood, and puts it on her intended husband's forehead, and making also a small circle on his chest, the husband does the same to the bride, this concludes the private ceremony.

Some weeks after she is decorated with loads of beads and brass ornaments round her neck, waist, wrists, and ankles; her hair is combed up, and done in fine plaits, rising nearly a foot from her head, and is studded over with brass combs, pins, brooches, and artificial flowers, her eye-brows generally are painted red. Her wrapper is generally of some gay coloured silk. She then takes her seat under a canopy in her father's yard, where she receives presents from her friends; her husband also brings his present, which consists chiefly of cloth, beads, ornaments, etc., which her father takes and locks up carefully in a chest. Should any quarrel or unpleasantness arise between the husband and wife, she then returns him the chest, and the contract is considered annulled; but if she has taken anything from the chest, she has to pay three times the value of the whole present. She is then led forth, not to the altar, but to the market to dance, where she exhibits herself to the wondering and applauding gaze of hundreds of admiring spectators. A man holds a huge umbrella, of divers coloured silks over her, a woman follows with a large easy-chair, as she requires rest occasionally. During this exhibition, her wrapper is frequently changed to show that she has a number of them. After dancing (if dancing I may call it) two or three rounds, she returns home. During the two or three days in which the ceremony is going on, she is never seen to speak or laugh, no, not even to smile; should she be seen to smile, she is pelted with mud, as it is considered a great disgrace for a bride to be seen smiling. These poor girls frequently die suddenly when they are going through the process of fattening. In a few months, after all this parade is ended, and after the marriage and honeymoon are over, the bride is received into the house, where she is kept in perpetual