

for the use of those who may not otherwise have received them. The Committee on the State of Religion would earnestly appeal to all the Sessions, to aid them with material for a full report to be laid before the Assembly in June. Besides such answers as Sessions may be able to give to the foregoing questions, the Committee would gladly receive any information or suggestions that may enable them more efficiently to prosecute their work. If there are any of the questions which Sessions may not be prepared to answer, or which, for any reason, they may judge it best not to answer, the Committee hope that they will not, on that account, refrain from answering the others.

In the circular first sent out, Sessions were requested to forward answers to the Clerks of their respective Presbyteries on or before the first of March. Those who may find themselves unable to do so, are now requested to forward answers to their Presbytery Clerks on or before the 1st of April.

THOMAS WARDROPE,

*Convener of the Assembly's Committee on the
State of Religion.*

Guelph, Feb. 18, 1874.

Missionary Intelligence.

MISSIONS OF FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

BOMBAY.—The native Church in Bombay has received during 1873 an accession of eighteen, on their profession of faith in the only Saviour.

BENGALE.—Rev. John Hector, writing under date 6th Dec., 1873, says, "From recent reports it would appear that missionary work among the Mohammedans of Eastern Bengal is becoming more and more hopeful. At the missionary conference on Tuesday last, Rev. Mr. Ellis, from Jessore, gave it as his decided conviction that the Mussulmans of that district are seriously thinking about Christianity. In itinerating he had met with interesting proofs of a spirit of inquiry, and considerable knowledge of Gospel history, gained by study apart from all missionary effort." Similar testimony was borne by other missionaries. Rev. Mr. Bion reported as to the general readiness of the Mussulmans to purchase the Mussulman-Bengali gospels, and spoke of proofs of a spirit of inquiry all around Dacca.

In "NOTES BY THE SECRETARY" in the last number of the *Free Church Record* we are told, "there seems no reason to doubt that in the Turkish Empire there has been 'a new departure of Islam'—a revival of Mussulman zeal. But there are more Mohammedans in India than in the whole Turkish Empire—a fact in every way important. The late census of Bengal clearly showed that the Mussulman population of that great province is much larger than had been supposed, amounting to nearly twenty-two millions. Further, the fanaticism of the Mohammedans in Bengal has certainly been increasing for some years past. Altogether, the state and feeling of Indian Mohammedans have been fitted to awaken no small anxiety in Christian minds.

But quite recently very cheering facts have come to light regarding the Mohammedans of Bengal. Some of these will be found clearly stated in Mr. Hector's very interesting letter given above. The change strikes us as wonderful. The Bible is read in places into which no missionary has ever preached; and interest, deepening towards conviction, is the consequence.