

THE



MONTHLY RECORD

OF THE

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND IN NOVA SCOTIA.

"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET HER CUNNING."—PSALM 137, *iv.*

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THE CHURCH AT HOME.

The Church of Scotland in the Mission Field

1853-54.

(Concluded from Edinburgh Christian Magazine.)

We come to speak now of the

JEWISH MISSION.

And we are happy to think, that now objections to the claims of this Mission require no refutation, while their peculiar character needs little advocacy. No Christian, indeed, can regard this Scheme without being convinced, that the great object it has in view is one which calls for unexampled energy and ceaseless effort on the part of the Church. Scattered over the length and breadth of the world—waif-like upon the ocean of being—the nation of Israel, while it presents an extended line of hostility to the very foundations of our faith, only demands that it be met with a more indomitable zeal, and a wider spirit of enterprise. Nor can we despair of the result. The visions of prophecy, the promises of Heaven, the coming glories of the earth, crowd upon our view, and fill us with encouragement and strength. Like rain-drops from a passing cloud falling upon a desert—like a handful of seed cast against the breeze—our efforts may seem to be lost; but with the aid of the Spirit of Truth, that rain-cloud will soon cover the heavens, and that seed shall yet flourish as a fruitful forest. "O Israel! thou hast destroyed thyself; but in Me is thy help."

The following is a note of the principal work of the Mission for the past year.

Cochin.—In consequence of the leave of absence for one year, granted to Mr. Laceron, a few of the out-station schools, attended by heathen children, in the meanwhile, were discontinued, as little good was likely to result from them without the frequent visits and careful oversight of the missionary. All the Jewish schools, however, have been

still maintained. The present establishment consists of fourteen teachers, supported by the Mission, and four supported by the Ladies' Association.

Divine service, in Malayalim, has been regularly conducted in the Mission chapel by two of the principal teachers, every Sabbath morning. The sermons and prayers read are those left by Mr. Laceron for the use of the teachers during his absence. The number of natives attending is from eighty to ninety. There is also a prayer meeting in Malayalim held every Tuesday evening, at which the attendance varies from thirty to forty.

The two Syrian priests, referred to in last Report as willing to renounce the superstitious practices of their own Church, are now teaching, with much efficiency, a school in connexion with the Mission at Candanate, a Syrian village at a considerable distance from Cochin. A native congregation of Roman Catholics in that neighbourhood have written to Mr. Laceron, expressing their earnest wish that a Protestant minister should be sent to instruct them in the truths of the Gospel.

After a conference with the India Mission, arrangements are in progress for the appointment of an additional missionary at Cochin, in order that advantage may be taken of the promising field which, in the providence of God, has been opened, not only for the conversion of Jews, but also of Hindoes, Syrians, and Mohammedans.

Mr. Laceron, during his sojourn in this country, was assiduously engaged in advocating the cause of the Jewish Mission, and besides raising a considerable sum for building an Orphanage, and securing promises of regular support and maintenance for a number of orphans, he has succeeded in exciting, in various parts of this country, a much greater interest than was felt before in behalf of the conversion of Israel. He has now returned in full health and vigour, and with unabated zeal, to the scene of his labors.

London.—A want of harmony between

the missionary and the acting committee has unfortunately rendered it necessary to suspend, for the present, the operations of the Mission at this important station. We can only express a hope that so desirable a field of labour will not long remain unoccupied.

Germany.—Of the four missionaries in this country, the Rev. H. Douglas, formerly stationed at Wurzburg, has ceased to act, having entered into arrangements for taking orders in the Church of England. The other three the Rev. G. F. Satter, at Karlsruhe, the Rev. J. C. Lehner, at Darmstadt, and the Rev. Rudolph Stern, at Speyer—have laboured, during the past year, in their respective stations, with the same discretion, energy, and devotedness which, in former years, has elicited warm approval. They are unceasingly occupied in visiting Jews, not only in the towns in which they are stationed, but in all the surrounding villages and rural districts; and they frequently attend the worship of the synagogues, and avail themselves of opportunities of addressing large assemblages of Jews at the religious meetings usually held at the close of the synagogue service. They distribute suitable tracts and copies of the Word of God—take a special interest in Jewish schools and schoolmasters—preach in the parish churches as often as occasion offers, and hold weekly meetings for prayer and exposition of the Scriptures. They also endeavour to stir up in the minds of the small number of faithful Protestant ministers in their several districts, and of the more numerous class of pious laymen, a warm interest in the spiritual welfare of their Jewish neighbours.

The German Mission Board, consisting of the missionaries, and one minister from each of their stations, has held three meetings during the past year,—one at Frankfort, and the other two at Darmstadt. The object of the meetings is, to engage in devotional exercises—to expound and discuss passages of Scripture bearing on the state and destiny of Israel—to receive reports