

danism, and so great would be the change produced by the wide diffusion of Christianity in India, that even the most sanguine may be unable to anticipate its actual occurrence. But let feelings of compassion for the sad condition of the natives stimulate to vigorous exertions, that this great change may be accomplished. They know not how to come before the Lord, and to bow themselves before the High God; and very decided must be the change in their condition, when their cumbrous systems—so difficult to understand, so strangely complicated, and so closely interwoven with all their thoughts and feelings—shall have been abolished,—and, instead of worshipping their idols by a wild and cruel ceremonial, they shall have come by the new and living way that has been opened to the Holiest of all. But has not the past, in every region of the world, been a life of astonishing changes without number, and is it in such an age as this that we are to see an overwhelming argument against the fulfilment of a hope, in the greatness of the change which such fulfilment implies? Have we not reason to believe that, by means of missionary exertion, the vast fabric of Eastern superstition is already tottering; and that, when God sees the fitting time, He, by His almighty power, will make the fabric itself come crumbling to the dust? We shudder as we recall those scenes of bloodshed which marked the earlier history of the Indian revolt. It is sickening to conceive what must have been the feelings of a wife and a mother struggling to escape—seeking concealment—flying from hut to hut, and compelled, ere yet she died in agony, to see husband and children mercilessly cut down; and assuredly, no sacrifice can be too great, if by any efforts, the recurrence of such scenes can be prevented. It is only by the power of Gospel truth that this result can be effected. The unenlightened natives of India are not only separated from God, they are in bondage to Satan. But, let the truth find an entrance, and this bondage must be broken.

"Then liberty like day,
Breaks on the soul, and by a flash from heaven,
Fires all the faculties with glorious joy."

Let India be converted, and you deal a blow to the kingdom of the prince of darkness that shall shake that kingdom, and be felt from its inmost centre! Let India be converted, and you rescue her people from the malignant power of their own cruel passions, their desperate falsehood, their grossly abominable iniquities! Let India be converted, and you lift up a testimony to the truth and to the influence of the Gospel that will be re-echoed through the old dynasties of Europe, and spread across the broad Atlantic, and over the farthest south, till it reach every quarter of the habitable world. Before the supremacy of this truth from heaven, all nations shall bow, and China and the East, in all their territories, instead of slumbering on in sluggish inactivity and bewildering self-

adulation, shall at last do homage to the Eternal Word. Paganism, with its fantastic and polluting delusions; philosophy, falsely so called, with its proud assumption; infidelity, with its cold and scornful sneers, defeated, shall pass away; and the victory won by a divine revelation on the plains of India, shall, by the blessing of God, largely contribute to secure for that revelation the fervent gratitude of converted nations—the universal reverence of an enlightened world.

Other Missionary Societies.—The Committee cannot close their Report without referring, in terms of cordial admiration, to the very great efforts that have recently been made for the evangelization of India, by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the Church Missionary Society, and other associations connected with different denominations both here and in England. The Report of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions attests most emphatically, the ardent zeal and eminent success with which their extensive operations are conducted; while the vast expenditure of exertion, with the large contributions for the glorious object of Christianising India made by these and other bodies, are fitted to awaken feelings of deep humility and regret that by the Church of Scotland so little has been accomplished.

Amount of Annual Collection, &c.—The amount of the annual collection, made by appointment of the General Assembly, and reckoned up to the date at which the accounts are closed, are £3175, 17s. 4d.; but contributions have since been received from 49 congregations, which properly belong to the collection for 1858-59. Up to the time of giving in the Report, collections have thus been made by 910 congregations. The income of the Scheme, derived from collections, parochial, congregational, and missionary associations, individuals, and legacies, has thus been £3999, 4s. 3d.; and if a sum equal to that received last year be obtained from the Lay Association, the income will be £4290, 12s. 5d.

The total general income for the last five years has been as follows:—

1854-5,	£3762	10	4
1855-6,	3827	15	1
1856-7,	3458	2	0
1857-8,	3843	9	0
1858-9,	4290	12	5

The Committee recommend that the sum contributed as a thank-offering on the 1st of May be expended on the erection of a Presbyterian church at Sealcote, to which the sum of £30 has already been subscribed. The trust that additional contributions for this object may also be obtained, and that thus an appropriate memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Hunter may be erected in that place in which they had begun to labor with devoted piety, ardent zeal, and unshrinking fortitude, as the earlier missionaries of the Church of Scotland to the Punjab, when they were cruelly massacred at